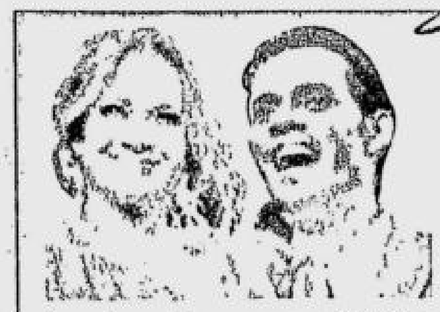
FRIDAY



ENTERTAINMENT / H1

Superstar couple sizzle in JLo's first concert tour

ACROSS / A17

6-year-old boy completes 10-km Cebu channel swim

WORLD / A25

Finnish student shoots dead principal, 7 classmates, self

WORLD / A26

Pakistan police arrest supporters of ex-PM Bhutto

In death, poor little girl's wishes come true

By Michael Lim Ubac *in Manila* and Jeffrey M. Tupas *Inquirer Mindanao*

SADDENED BY THE DEATH OF MARIANNET Amper who had lost all hope and hanged herself because of poverty, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered a review of her administration's "accelerated hunger mitigation program."

IN DEATH/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, November 9, 2007 ★★ 14 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 334 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

First win for amparo: Zambo activist freed

By TJ Burgonio, Leila B. Salaverria and Margaux C. Ortiz

BOWING TO THE WRIT OF AMPARO, THE Philippine Army has freed a left-wing activist after holding him for 14 days—the first detainee to be released from military custody under the newfound power of the courts.

Detained in Zamboanga del Sur, Ruel

FIRST/ A21

Saguisag wife dies in crash

Ex-senator still in ICU with head, rib injuries

By DJ Yap and Tarra Quismundo

THE QUESTION OF who had right of way is at the center of the road accident in Makati City that seriously injured former Sen. Rene Saguisag and killed his wife Dulce at 1:15 a.m. yesterday.

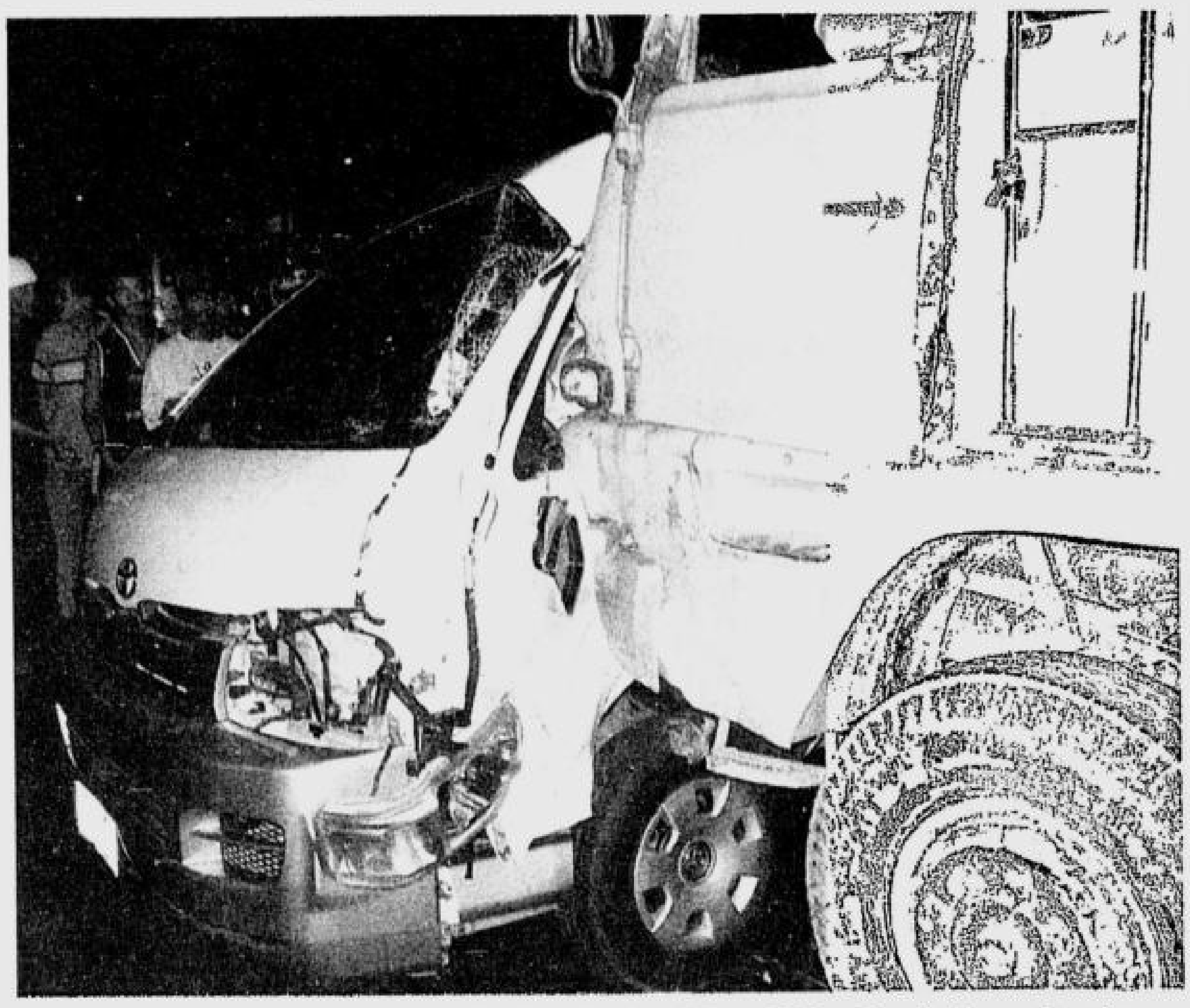
From accounts, the Toyota Hi-Ace Grandia van carrying the couple was crossing the intersection of Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road) and Osmeña Highway (South Superhighway) when a dump truck smashed into it, dragging it some 20 meters down the roadway before stopping.

"The van was a total wreck. The left side caved inward so much, it's like the two sides met," a member of the rescue team observed.

The couple's son, Rene "Rebo" Saguisag Jr., said his parents had just spent hours ballroom dancing at Bykes Café on Chino Roces Avenue and were on their way home when the accident occurred.

Rescuers who arrived at the scene minutes after the crash found Dulce Saguisag with no

SAGUISAG / A10



KILLER TRUCK rams deep onto the left side of the Saguisags' Toyota Hi-Ace Grandia. It caved in so far inward that the two sides of the van met, said an eyewitness. All photos by Ronald Urbina/Contributor

MAKATI RESCUE

FRONT SEAT (above), DI Rhea Obong in state of shock, driver Felipe Calvario is slumped over the wheel. Paramedics (at left) of the Makati Rescue unit carefully move the unconscious Rene Saguisag to a stretcher after extricating him from the right side of the van.

She saved the last dance for him

DULCE SAGUISAG: Even off the dance floor, she kept in step with her husband.

By DJ Yap and Tarra Quismundo

THE MANNER OF DULCE Saguisag's death showed the lengths she would go to protect her husband, according to their eldest son, Rene "Rebo" Saguisag Jr.

"As you can see from what happened, she absorbed everything to save my father," the 35-year-old lawyer told the INQUIRER. "By and large, that's how their relationship was."

Partners even on the ballroom floor, Rene and Dulce Saguisag were married for more than 30 years.

"Rene will be lost without Dulce. That's their relationship," said Sen. Joker Arroyo, a longtime friend of the couple.

She was his "crutch," Arroyo said. "*Talagang* (Really) inseparable."

Rebo said the family had decided not to tell Rene of Dulce's passing, while his condition remained precarious.

SHE SAVED/ A10

AND THE MUSIC STOPPED PLAYING: In the back seat, Dulce Saguisag lies on the deadly left side of the van.

CBCP head suspicious of cash gift admissions

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE PRESIDENT of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines yesterday demanded an explanation from the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo on why its officials had taken so long to explain that her party was the source of the cash gifts handed to politicians in Malacañang on Oct. 11.

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro said the admission by officials of Ms Arroyo's Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino party that Kampi had distributed P500,000 each to at least two congressmen had raised "more suspicions" rather than given "clear answers."

"Why this admission now, three weeks after? Why not earlier," the CBCP president said regarding the revelation on Tuesday by House Deputy Speaker Ma. Amelita Villarosa that she had handed out the cash gifts to Representatives Bienvenido Abante of Manila and Thomas Dumpit of La Union.

CBCP HEAD/ A12

LP congressmen admit receiving cash gifts, too

By Christian V. Esguerra

LIBERAL PARTY CONGRESSMEN HAVE joined the expanding list of politicians who have admitted receiving cash gifts in Malacañang during the Oct. 11 meetings called by President Macapagal-Arroyo, which the Senate said it would investigate.

Quezon Rep. Lorenzo "Erin" Tañada III, who heads the 23-strong LP contingent in the House of Representatives, said the group met on Monday, the day before Deputy Speaker Ma. Amelita "Girlie" Villarosa admitted that some of the money distributed in Malacañang had come from Ms Arroyo's Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) party.

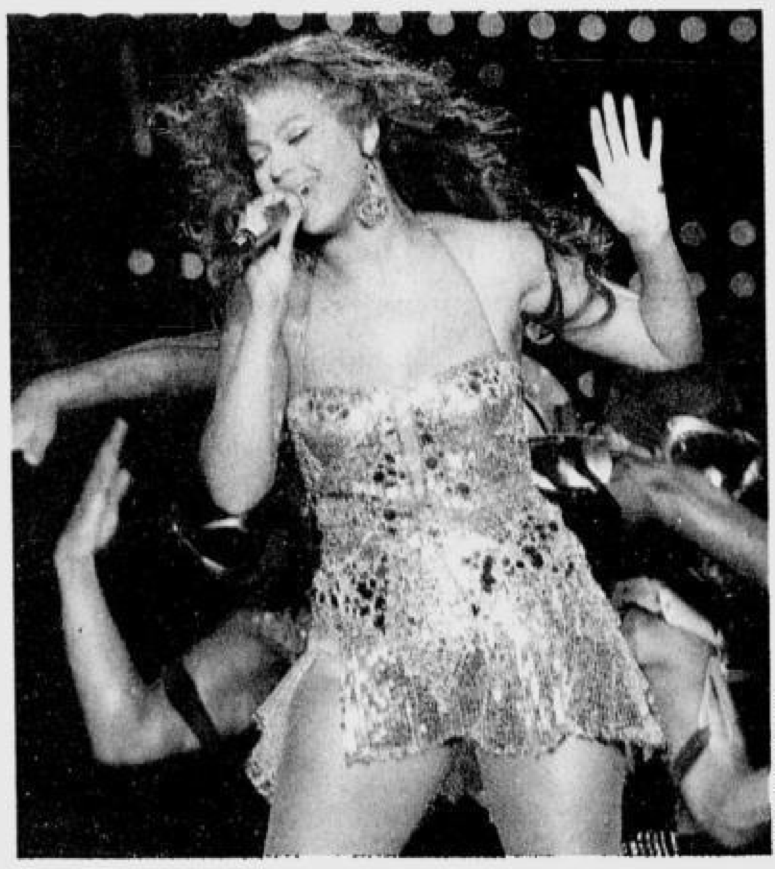
"They agreed to come out as a group and tell the truth in the proper forum," Tañada told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

Of LP's 23 congressmen, three, including himself, did not show up in the Malacañang affair, Tañada said.

Asked if the congressmen all received money, he said he was leaving the matter of admission or denial to the "few" party members he had talked with.

Tañada said the LP congressmen had told him what transpired during the Oct.

LP CONGRESSMEN/ A12



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

THE RAVE REVIEW IS UNANIMOUS: Beyonce Knowles in her first ever visit to the country bowled the Filipinos over with her dazzling performance at her one night concert on Wednesday called, "The Beyonce Experience: Live in Taguig 2007" at the Bonifacio Global City Open Field.

NPC offers to sell 'bastardized' mural on press freedom to PDI

By Fe Zamora

THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB IS selling the "bastardized" mural on press freedom with the alterations that have given it an "undeserved notoriety," NPC secretary Louie Logarta said yesterday.

Logarta, a former NPC president, offered the mural to the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

"This mural is about the INQUIRER, anyway," he said, pointing to the images of two women who are supposed to be INQUIRER founding chair Eugenia Apostol and editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc.

In addition, there's an image of a man who looks like INQUIRER columnist Amando Doronila [a former NPC president], according to Logarta, a former INQUIRER reporter.

The "editorial page" being read by the man at the center of the mural also appeared to have been lifted from the INQUIRER, Logarta said, noting the fonts used.

Three other INQUIRER columnists are on the mural—Randy

NPC OFFERS/ A21

Yes, the look of love is in your eyes, hips, too

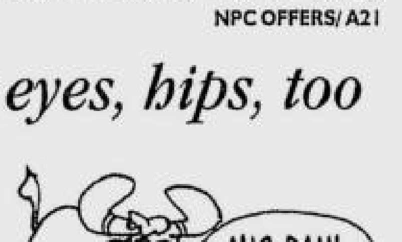
PARIS—THE LOOK OF LOVE may be in the eyes, but it's the hips that tell you she is ready.

These are the findings of two separate studies made by a team of scientists in Canada and by a group of researchers in Scotland.

The British weekly New Scientist says a woman who walks with a seductive sway of her hips is unlikely to be ovulating, a finding that sheds light on the complex sexual signals that women give to men.

A research team at Queen's University in Ontario, Canada, dressed female volunteers in suits which had light reflectors placed on the joints and limbs and filmed them walking in or-

YES, THE LOOK/ A21


ANG DAMI PALANG DAPAT TINGNAN!

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/11/08/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

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ANG DAMI MO NAMANG INTERESTS!

EZ2

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(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening

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‘JDV told me not to rock the boat’

Enrile says Speaker had interest in NorthRail project

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

“DON’T ROCK THE BOAT.”

This was what Speaker Jose de Venecia supposedly told Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile two years ago when the former was lobbying in behalf of the $550-million North Luzon Railways Corp. (NorthRail) project.

Enrile said that after he delivered a privilege speech in the Senate in 2005 savaging the NorthRail contract for being overpriced and against Philippine interests, De Venecia asked to meet with him at Dusit Hotel in Makati City.

“He pleaded with me not to rock the boat in the case of NorthRail because according to him it was good for the country. He did not tell me to back off—he cannot say that to me. Let the Speaker deny that he didn’t meet with me,” Enrile said at a press conference yesterday at the Senate.

De Venecia, in a press statement, defended the project but did not deny anything Enrile said.

Enrile said his impression was that De Venecia had an interest in NorthRail.

“I had not gone into the evidence because his name did not appear in the contract, although I was shown a photograph supposedly involving an agent of the Chinese company that was supposed to do the job, William Go, with the Chinese ambassador,” he said.

While the project was overpriced, Enrile said this was not his main concern.

“The most telling portion of that NorthRail contract is what will happen if there is a default. Under the contract, China can literally take over Malampaya, all the monies of the republic abroad, because every asset of the government is committed to respond to the payment of the loan, except assets for defense and for governance. That is the most insidious, onerous and stupid provision of that contract,” Enrile said.

Despite the controversy surrounding the NorthRail project, the government signed the contract with China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. two years ago and it has been paying roughly $400,000 a month in interest since then for the Chinese loan even though railway construction has yet to begin.

Enrile’s revelation came in the wake of his avowed intent to pin De Venecia for allegedly lobbying for his son’s company, Amsterdam Holdings Inc., in its recent bid to win the National Broadband Network (NBN) contract.

AHI lost the contract to ZTE Corp. of China, but after the Speaker’s son, Jose “Joey” de Venecia III, linked President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband and some government officials to the deal, the contract was canceled by the Chief Executive.

Enrile said that at the next NBN probe at the Senate, he would ask Amsterdam CEO Ernesto Garcia how the Office of the Speaker got involved in lobbying the Department of Transportation and Communication in behalf of AHI.

“What is the business of the Office of the Speaker in Amsterdam Holdings to warrant the statement that it [AHI] was getting instructions [from the Speaker]. To be blunt about it, was the Speaker interested in the ZTE contract such that his office was issuing instructions to the executive of a company supposedly owned by his son, and, if so, for what purpose,” Enrile said.

For his part, Speaker De Venecia on Thursday said his participation in the NorthRail project “had been aboveboard.”

In a press statement, De Venecia said he pushed for the revival of the railway from Manila to northern Luzon because of the need for an efficient, affordable and reliable mass transport system after the old rail line was abandoned 30 years ago.

He said NorthRail was financed and built by the Chinese government through a 20-year concessional loan, a first by China to a Southeast Asian country.

“This is a project much awaited and favored by our people in Luzon,” he said. “A cheap and efficient transport system means lower production costs for industries resulting in cheaper prices of goods and services.”

WHAT’S INSIDE

▨ **MYSTERY** shrouds Pinay’s ‘suicide’ in Riyadh /A7

▨ **HOW TO PICK** Comelec men /A4

▨ **PINOY** mutineers home today /A8

4 killed in Cavite dynamite blast

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—AT least four people were killed and a dozen were injured after ingredients used to manufacture dynamite exploded in a subdivision in Bacoor, Cavite, on Thursday.

Supt. Antonio Yarra, Bacoor police chief, said four persons were confirmed dead in the explosion that hurt 12 others.

He said the dead were unidentified as of press time.

Senior Supt. Fidel Posadas, Cavite police director, said at least four row houses inside Sorrento Subdivision in Barangay Panapaan 4 were leveled by the explosion.

“The impact of the explosion caused the row houses to collapse,” Posadas told the INQUIRER. Ten other homes were partially damaged.

He said at least three of the injured were in critical condition after some of them were trapped under the collapsed houses.

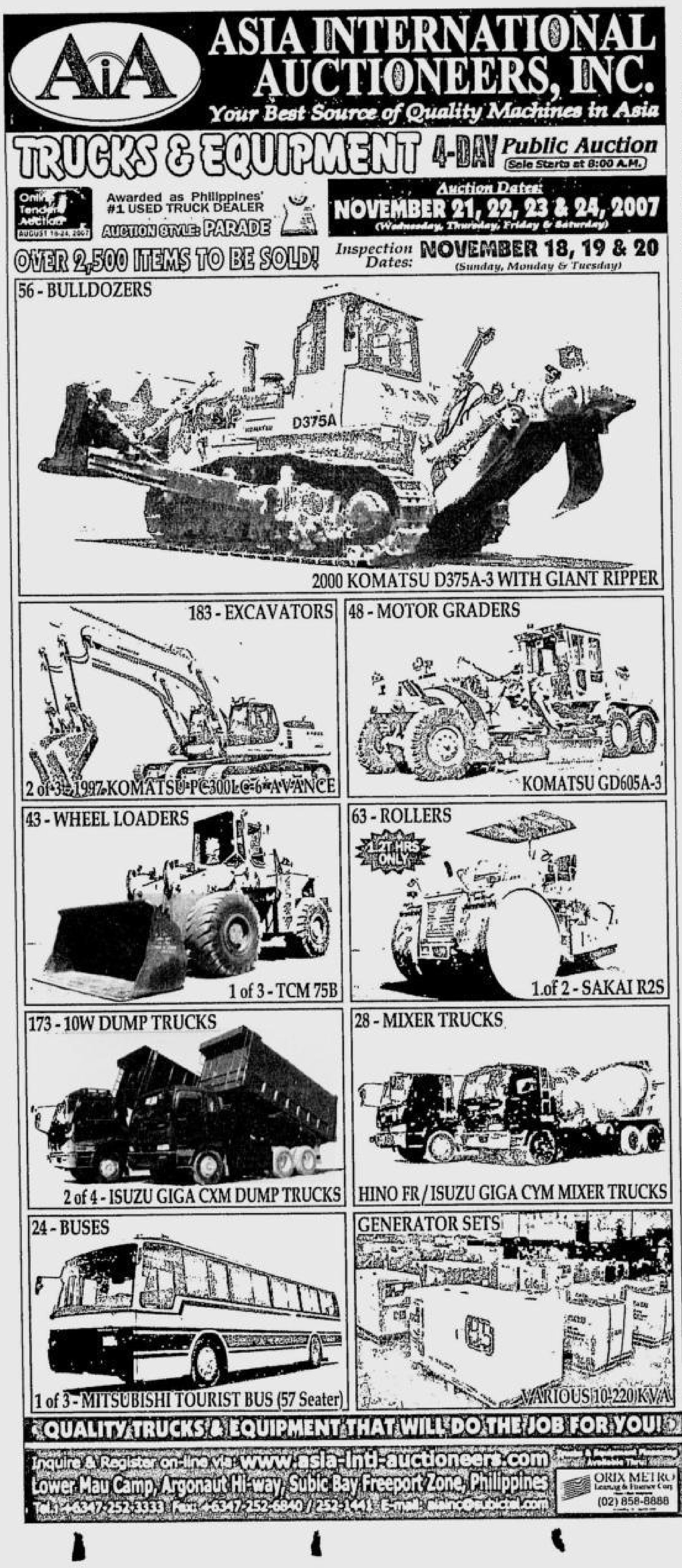
He said residents of the subdivision heard a loud explosion at 4:10 p.m.

“The explosion was so loud it was heard by people several kilometers away,” Posadas said.

He said the explosion caused panic among shoppers at a nearby SM mall.

Posadas said police had ruled out a terrorist attack.

“This could have just been an accident,” he said.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173 - 10W DUMP TRUCKS
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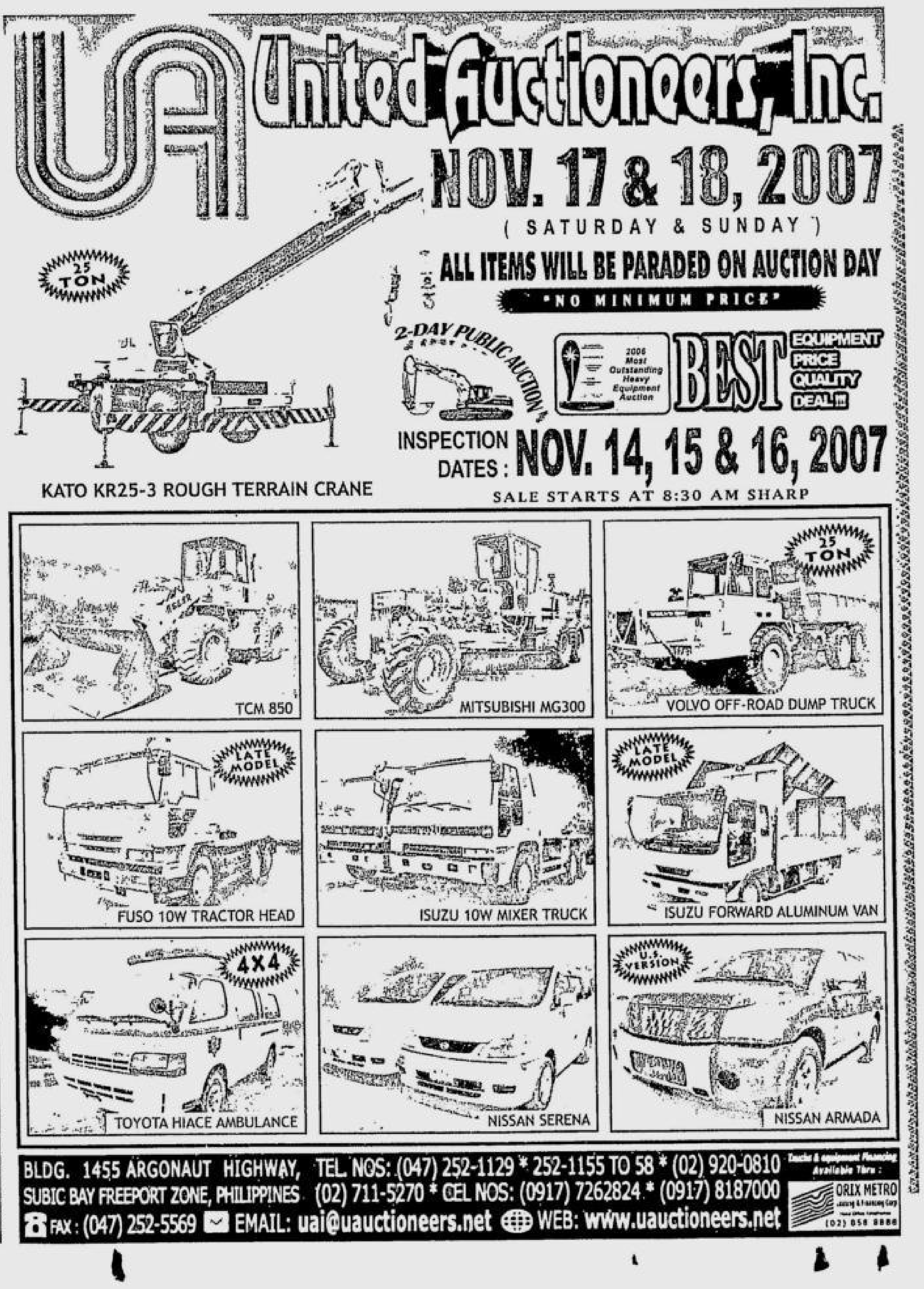
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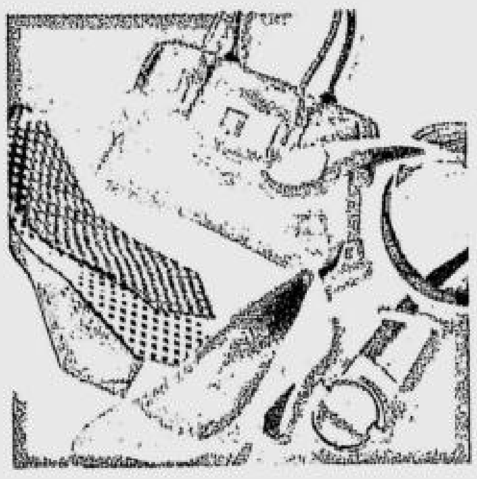

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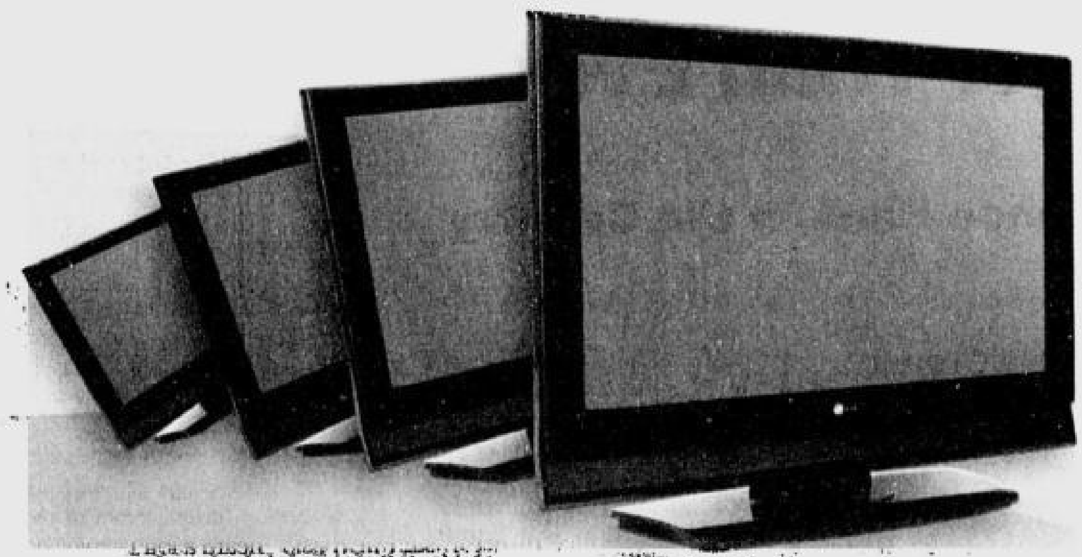

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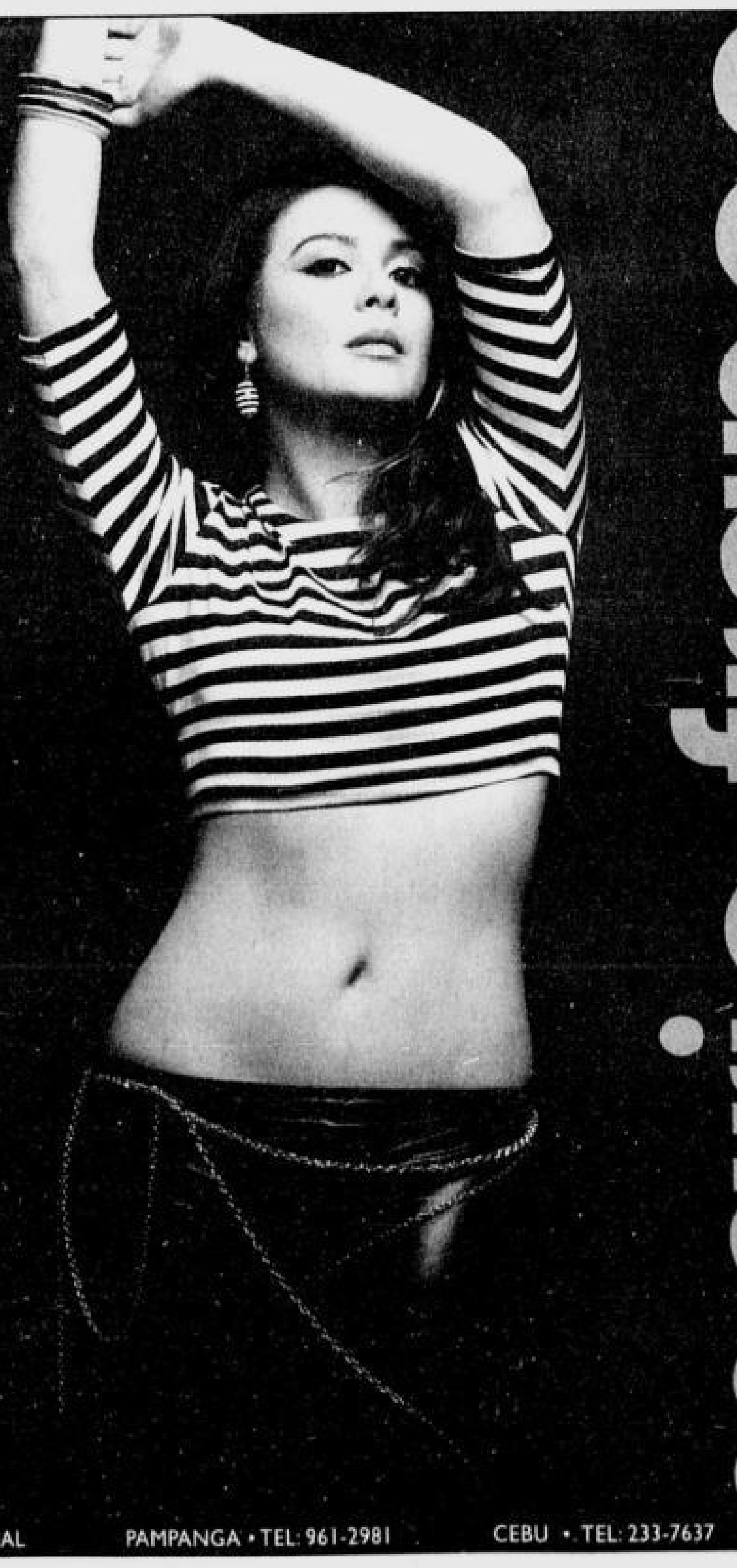

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006

WATCHDOGS' ADVICE TO GMA

How to pick Comelec men

By Beverly T. Natividad

WITH THE VACANCIES AT THE COMMISSION on Elections, and because of its low credibility with the public, some sectors have been pitching unsolicited advice to the appointing authority—Malacañang—on how to go about choosing the next commissioners.

An antigraft watchdog group, the Center for Anti-Graft and Corruption Inc. (The Center), has come up with nine "rigid" qualifications that, it said, President Macapagal-Arroyo should consider in appointing people to the Comelec.

In a statement, The Center said that apart from recognized probity and independence, appointees must not be affiliated with any recognized political party.

They must not be related to the President up to the third degree of consanguinity nor be a close personal or social friend, ally or employee of Ms Arroyo.

The Center said it was important appointees had "untainted years of experience" either as an official of the Comelec or other government agency, or a judge, fiscal or lawyer.

The Comelec chair, The Center said, must have "untainted" years of legal and auditing experience, decision-making skills and managerial expertise.

Appointees must not have run for any national or local government post.

The Center also asked the President to heed the public demand for transparency in her appointments to the Comelec.

"Thus only strict and selfless adherence to high-standard prerequisites in choosing the best of appointees to unfilled posts by President Arroyo could truly help restore long lost public trust and confidence in the poll body," said Lane Afable, The Center's secretary general in the statement.

Afable said some sectors had expressed concern over the President's recent appointment of Moslemen Macarambon to the Comelec when he was not on the short list of candidates that had been put out earlier by Malacañang.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson had also objected to Macarambon's appointment, claiming he was a protege of former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano of "Hello Garci" alleged election fraud fame.

Church-based election watchdog Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting had earlier urged the President to follow the selection process of the Judicial and Bar Council, which recommends appointees to the Supreme Court.

Macarambon filled the seat made vacant with the retirement of Mehol Sadain.

The three other vacancies are the chairmanship that Benjamin Abalos resigned on Oct. 1 after he was linked to the national broadband scandal, and two other commissioner seats that will be vacated with the retirement of Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason in February.

Corrections

IN THE NOV. 6 ISSUE, a Lifestyle article on Page C1—"Wanted: Filipino doctors to treat a new childhood epidemic"—misstated that the story was an expanded version of an address to the Rotary Club of Makati. The address was given to the Rotary Club of Makati Dasmariñas.

* * *

IN THE FIRST EDITION of the Nov. 7 issue, a front-page article—"NPC execs call Angono artists ingrates"—misstated the amounts given by the National Press Club to the Neo-Angono Artists Collective as payment for a press freedom mural. The artists were paid P260,000, P330,000 and P310,000—not P260, P330 and P310—on different dates.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, the Rushes portion on Page F4 of the Entertainment section—"Jeremy Marquez takes after dad Joey"—misstated that Sherwin Gatchalian is the mayor of Navotas. Gatchalian is the mayor of Valenzuela City. Toby Tiangco is the mayor of Navotas.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, November 9, 2007
Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

1st Reading:	Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12
2nd Reading:	1 Cor 3:9-11, 16-17
Gospel:	John 2:13-22

As the Passover of the Jews was at hand, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the Temple court he found merchants selling oxen, sheep and doves, and money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the Temple court, together with the oxen and sheep. He knocked over the tables of the money-changers, scattering the coins, and ordered the people selling doves, "Take all this away and stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!"

His disciples recalled the words of Scripture: Zeal for your House devours me as a fire.

The Jews then questioned Jesus, "Where are the miraculous signs which give you the right to do this?" And Jesus said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then replied, "The building of this temple has already taken 46 years, and you will raise it up in three days?"

Actually, Jesus was referring to the temple of his body. Only when he had risen from the dead did his disciples remember these words; then they believed both the Scripture and the words Jesus had spoken.

Commentary

Water flows from the temple and this water purifies and brings life to everything in its path and all that dwell in it and drink from it. This water of the Spirit of life produces fruit every month and the food is good for eating and healing. This church is one of the oldest in Rome—a symbol for mother churches everywhere that plants, waters, gives life to all who are baptized/fed/forgiven and worship together in its confines/spaces. We are the Church and we build the foundation, not of buildings, but of relationships, freedom, justice, and hope for all the peoples of the world. Church is the place where we go forth from, out into the world in service of others. We are to be much more careful of the temples of God—the people around us—than we are of the physical building/structure. What we do in the building is nothing if we are not attentive to the needs of people and what we do for one another, as well as what our God has done for us, and what we would do in return and in gratitude. It is time to rededicate ourselves to the building of the human community.

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Significant Beginnings

When a small rural bank broke ground in 1956, the time and event have been marked in history as the very same bank evolved into one of the premier development banks in the Philippines --- LBC Development Bank. From a start-up capital of less than one million pesos, the bank has grown its assets and became a medium-sized thrift bank until LBC Group acquired it in June 1995. It only had three branches then, including its former Pasay Head Office. Despite the financial crisis that took its toll on the country in 1997, LBC Development Bank remained firm and unyielding, and coped with the financial strain by offering innovative products and excellent customer service to the banking public. Through a more aggressive business approach, LBC Development Bank was able to take advantage of the economic boom that followed, thus adding nine new branches, bringing its total number to 12. Anticipating more business opportunities in the central business district, LBC Development Bank transferred its Head Office from Pasay to Makati and eight more branches augmented the bank's network, bringing the count to a total of 20 branches.

Since its beginnings, LBC Development Bank has complemented the worldwide remittance business of the LBC Group – a pioneering force in the remittance industry since 1985. Recognizing the business potential of the millions of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in the country, the bank has developed means to efficiently deliver its services and address the ever-growing needs of our OFWs and their families.

In support of the government's thrust to encourage influx of remittances to the Philippines to help boost its economy, LBC Development Bank has provided services that will encourage OFWs to save money in the country just by simply maintaining their bank accounts. Thus, LBC Development Bank started to offer LBC Bank ATM Bilis Padala, the fastest, most convenient way to receive money from anywhere in the world. This is just one of the many product and service innovations introduced by LBC Development Bank as it steps up to achieve its goal of becoming the country's premier remittance bank.

Unstoppable Growth

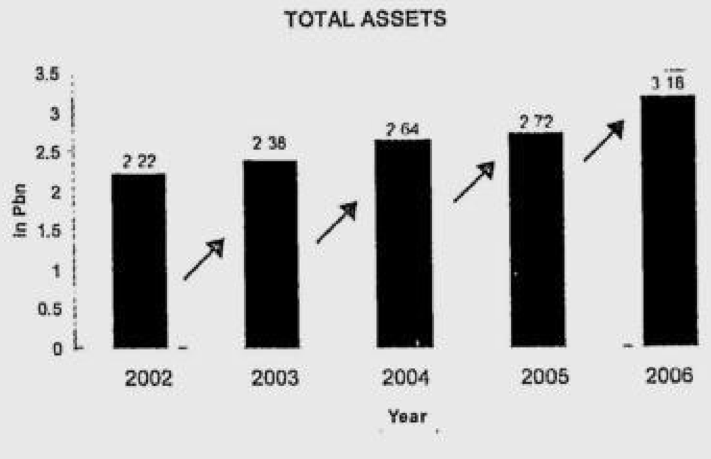
Over the years, LBC Development Bank has shown significant and unstoppable growth in the various aspects of its business. Its assets, from 2002 to 2006, reached to over three billion pesos (P3.18B), an all-time high of 43%, which has cultivated a strong confidence among its client base. During the same period, deposits shot up to 65% from previous years, soaring to an astounding sum of 2.75 billion pesos (P2.75B).

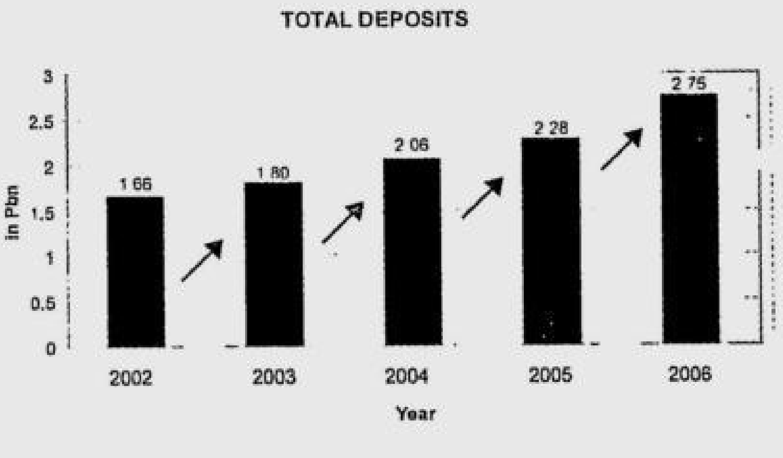
The latest Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) figures also speak of LBC Development Bank's healthy capital standing which is currently at over P400M, higher than the required P325M capital.

From these latest financial figures, there is no doubt that LBC Development Bank has reaped enormous gains from its investments. Proof to this is the positive turn-around in the bank's profitability status which has carried on from the end of 2004 up to the present.

Enhanced Service and Product Line

Testament to the excellence of the LBC name, LBC Development Bank has introduced and continuously developed a service and product line that underscores the bank's mandate on quality deposit and loan products that adapt to the changing needs of its clientele. LBC Development Bank has offered 24-hour banking convenience by becoming an equity member of Megalink – the pioneer ATM network in the country. Thirty (30) ATMs were installed in various branches and offsite locations to provide easy access to banking and ATM services to cardholders. Now, customers can go to any of the over 5,000 ATMs and 1,000 merchant establishments nationwide when they need it. More recently, LBC Development Bank has introduced the Debit Bills facility, a service feature that allows cardholders to pay their utility bills through any Megalink ATM.





Unparalleled Industry Breakthroughs

With LBC Development Bank's tested and proven resiliency over the years, there is no wonder it has broken barriers in offering services which are nothing short of innovation. Prestigious awards in 2004 – the National Consumers Quality Award and the Superbrands Award and more recently as a Best Practice Award finalist for Access to Finance – are merits bestowed to LBC Development Bank for its unwavering commitment to its loyal customers and the outstanding service that has set the bar of excellence in the banking industry. With LBC Development Bank sustaining its growth over the years, it has instilled its trusted and reputable name in the hearts and minds of Filipinos. All these impressive qualities have driven LBC Development Bank to give customers the quality of service they truly deserve – a service fit for a king. Now stronger than ever, LBC Development Bank is making waves to realize another industry breakthrough – to become the first remittance bank in the Philippines.

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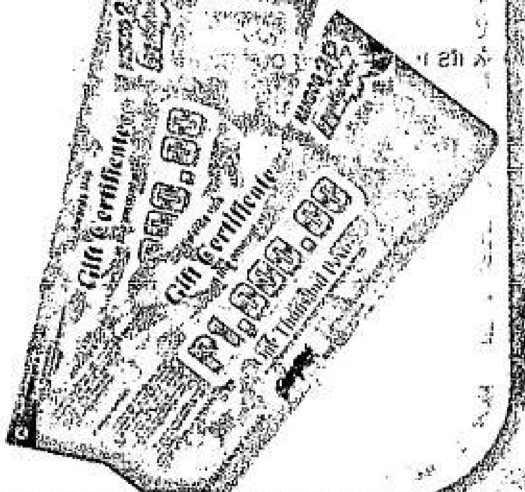

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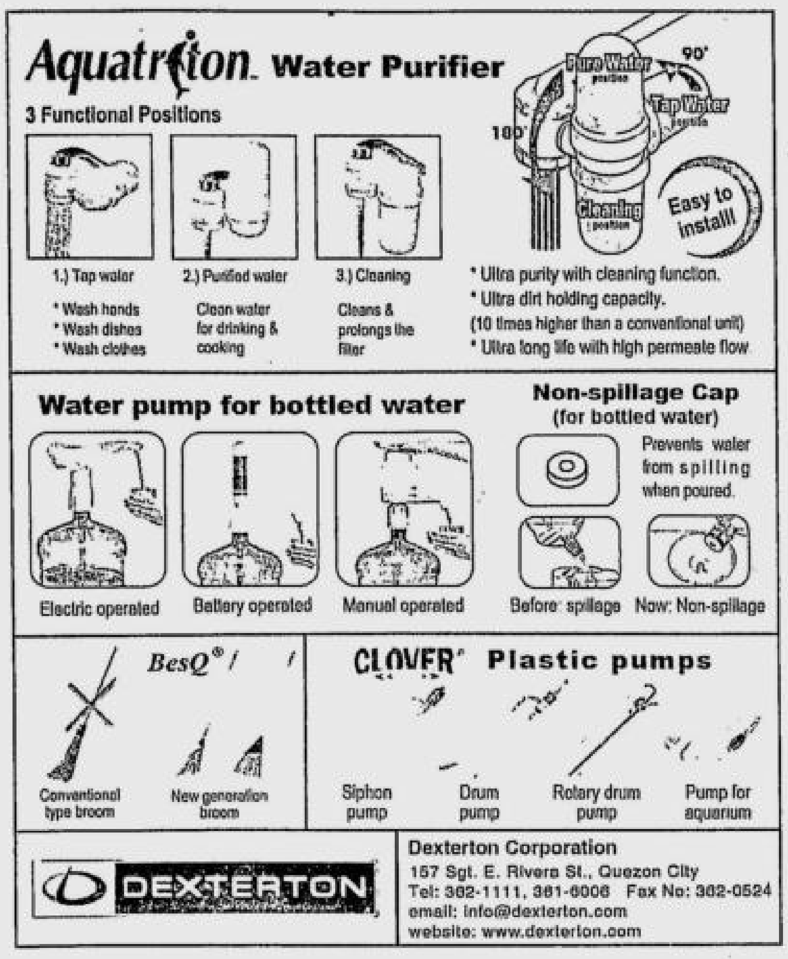
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Senate gives gov't more time to defend Jpepa

ROXAS INQUIRER PHOTO

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE SENATE IS GIVING THE government more time to defend a trade treaty it negotiated with Japan, setting a target to put the proposed Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) to a vote before the end of the year.

The Senate has to ratify the treaty by a majority vote before it can be implemented.

At the sixth hearing on the treaty yesterday, Sen. Manuel Roxas II, chair of the Senate committee on trade and commerce, said he was "dismayed" that the government had no ready answers and data on which Philippine export products to Japan already enjoyed zero tariff before the Jpepa was negotiated.

"The confidence of the senators is being severely tested. If they cannot answer basic questions here in this hearing, then what confidence do we have that when they entered into the negotiations, they had this data with them?," he told reporters after the hearing.

Roxas wants the government to show what the country gained in trade and economic benefits against the trade concessions it gave Japan.

He also wants to know what "safety nets" are provided for the sectors that will be affected by the trade-liberalizing agreement.

But Sen. Richard Gordon said he was ready to vote. He said he was in favor of the treaty despite some misgivings.

"Other countries have their own [economic agreements with Japan]. If we don't have one, we will be left behind," he said.

"I don't want this to be a missed opportunity," he said.

"I'm in favor of it but there should be conditionalities," he told reporters. He said one such conditionality should be an assurance that the provisions of the Constitution would be superior over conflicting provisions in the Jpepa.

Like Roxas, Gordon said he also wanted safety net programs for the sectors that will be affected by the influx of Japanese products, like the auto industry.

In past hearings, administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee which is leading the hearings, said she was thinking of not submitting a committee report to the plenary, anticipating that the treaty would not pass ratification.

Santiago has repeatedly expressed dismay at the government's failure to defend the treaty.

Santiago gave all parties until Oct. 23 to submit their supporting memoranda and targeted a Senate vote before the end of the year.

Roxas, who took over the hearings while Santiago is in the United States to campaign for a seat in the International Court of Justice, said he would call "as many hearings as necessary."

"This is a very important treaty. It's our first potential bilateral treaty so we want to make sure we give this a good scrutiny and it is as broadly explained as possible," he said.

He said he was not setting a target date to put the Jpepa to a vote.

"This is such an important thing, we will not be bound by any deadline. This will be something of strategic importance and strategic impact to the country. We should not rush this just because there's a self-imposed target," he said.

GMA vows to go after 'kotong' cops, colorum vehicles

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS vowed to crack down on "colorum" or vehicles illegally plying routes of franchised jeepneys, buses and taxis and extortionist traffic enforcers and policemen in a bid to mollify transport groups seeking fare hikes in the face of soaring oil prices.

The President said wiping out colorum and "kotong" (petty extortion by policemen) would help augment incomes of transport groups because the two problems contributed to large cuts in their daily earnings.

Ms Arroyo had created an "Anti-Kotong, anti-Colorum" Task Force and designated retired Gen. Roy Kyamko head of the panel, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye announced yesterday.

Bunye said the President created the task force after she met with leaders of the transport sector and some Cabinet officials to tackle the effects of the continued rise of oil prices in the global market.

"(The task force) will be formed by the Department of Energy, the head of the steering committee and will include the departments of Justice, Transportation and Communications and the private sector," the President's spokesperson told reporters.

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Mystery shrouds Pinay's 'suicide' in Riyadh

By Jerome Aning

AN ORGANIZATION of overseas Filipino groups in the Middle East yesterday urged the Philippine Embassy to demand an independent investigation of the mysterious death of domestic helper Anita Carvajal Morales in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The Kapatiran sa Gitnang Silangan cast doubt on the report that Morales, whose body was found inside the toilet of a Riyadh police station last Sept. 9, was a suicide.

Saudi police investigators have concluded that a piece of cloth found near the body indicated that Morales, who died the day before she was scheduled to return to the Philippines, had used it to hang herself.

The body of Morales arrived in Manila in a sealed coffin last Wednesday and was brought straight to the National Bureau of Investigation to be autopsied.

The KGS said it was odd that Morales would commit suicide, as the Riyadh police reported, when the theft charges that her employer had leveled against her had been withdrawn and that she was already scheduled to be repatriated.

Moreover, Morales' death was reported to her husband after more than a month, adding to suspicions that Saudi authorities might be hiding something, the KSG said in a statement.

Philippine Embassy officials should be able to prove how a piece of cloth attached to a door knob could kill somebody who was "supposed to be euphoric that the charges against her were withdrawn and was about to go home," said the KGS statement e-mailed by its spokesperson Richard Bautista.

In Hong Kong, the Asia-Pacific Mission for Migrants also joined calls for an independent investigation.

KSG and APMM said Morales' death belies the government's claim that Filipino maids were getting more respect in the kingdom as indicated by the mandatory $400 monthly salary unilaterally imposed last year.

"A self-imposed salary increase is not a benchmark for respect. An employer voluntarily giving workers double pay for what the employer believes the worker deserves is," Bautista said.

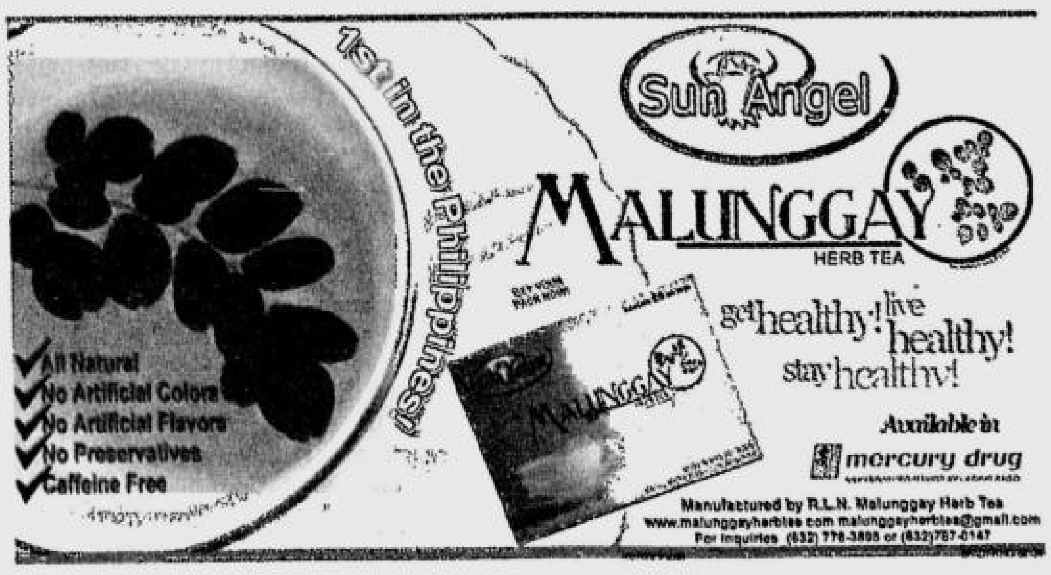
APMM managing director Ramon Bultron said the new deployment guidelines seeking to increase the wages of domestic helpers around the world have not stopped exploitative practices.

Bultron said Philippine placement agencies continue to overcharge domestics, or household service workers (HSWs), as the government calls them.

Bautista said the increasing number of Filipino workers seeking assistance all over Saudi Arabia should mobilize labor officials "to gather exact data from jobsites to know the correct labor situation."

"Reporting to Manila that Filipino domestic helpers are eliciting a higher level of respect from Saudi employers when in fact the recent rape of Filipino domestic helper as videotaped by her employer's son is only the tip of the iceberg," he said.

Morales' death as well as the reported rape of two Filipino nurses by a taxi driver are the latest of the continuing disrespectful treatment of OFWs in Saudi Arabia, Bautista said.



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Lawyer pleads with CA to free Marine colonel

THE LAWYER OF DETAINED MARINE COL. Ariel Querubin yesterday argued before the Court of Appeals for the release of his client, saying no valid charges have been filed against him before the military court.

Sigfried Fortun said the failure of Armed Forces Chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. to sign the pre-trial advice (PTA) recommending that Querubin be charged for violating four Articles of War provisions has rendered the document ineffective.

The military, through the Office of the Solicitor General, opposed Querubin's release, even on bail, contending that the charges against the officer for violation of four Articles of War provisions were valid even without Esperon's signature, and that Querubin's offenses were punishable with detention.

Assistant Solicitor General Amparo Tang said that by issuing a memorandum for Querubin's court martial, Esperon has "effectively and legally" approved the PTA.

"The memorandum ordering the creation of the court martial is more than enough approval," she said.

The appellate court did not rule yet on whether Querubin should be released, directing the parties to submit their positions on the issue instead.

Former Vice President Teofisto Guingona appeared at the hearing and said he was supporting Querubin, who is among the officers detained at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal for their involvement in the February 2006 coup plot.

Fortun said the PTA is similar to the charge sheet filed before civilian courts, and should be subscribed to by the prosecutor before being filed before the court.

He said there was an "anomaly" because the pre-trial investigation report that was the basis of the PTA recommended the dismissal of the charges of mutiny and disobedience and upheld the charges of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline. The PTA recommended that all charges be filed.

He said the charges of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline are minor offenses, the penalty for which is not confinement.

"The continued confinement of Colonel Querubin is not only unlawful, it also has no basis in fact and in law," he said.

Tang argued that military court proceedings are different from those in civilian courts.

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REBELLIOUS IN MAURITIUS

Pinoy mutineers home today

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE FILIPINO SEAMEN WHO seized control of their fishing boat due to maltreatment by its Taiwanese captain will be back in Manila today from Mauritius where they docked the vessel.

Vice President Noli de Castro, presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers, said Vice Consul to Nairobi Bernadette Mendoza confirmed the seamen left Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius, on Nov. 8 and were to arrive in Manila at 10:20 p.m. today via Dubai.

The seamen were identified as Roderick Sumang, Edwin Lee, Sherilo Moraleja, Delter Algay, Socrates Silan Jr., Dennis Tolentino, Noel Cusi, Jose Menpin and Jesus Manaqued.

They said the captain maltreated them and had not paid their salaries for one month.

De Castro revealed there was a 10th Filipino crew member, Alfredo Franco, who was not on the boat's manifest because his passport was on another vessel at sea.

He said Franco had been working for the Taiwanese captain for four years and had not been paid for seven months.

De Castro said Franco's arrival in Manila may be delayed because the consulate in Nairobi was still preparing his travel documents.

The 10 held the captain, Jui-yin Huang, who also owned the boat, the Ruei Thih Fa, captive in his cabin and steered the vessel back to Port Louis, its home port, on Oct. 4. They had been at sea only four days.

Claro Cristobal, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson, said the ship captain agreed not to press charges against the Filipino crewmen and to pay each them either their $200 monthly salary or their air fare back to the Philippines. He also agreed to pay Franco his back wages.

The seamen elected for their air fare which cost $750 each.

The captain also paid their hotel and food expenses up to the time they left Mauritius.

De Castro, meanwhile, urged Filipinos wishing to work abroad to follow the law. He said the nine seamen had gone to work abroad illegally, since they did not go through the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration which oversees the documentation of OFWs.

Tangub to host history conference

THE 28TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON National and Local History will be held by the Philippine National Historical Society (PNHS), the oldest such organization in the country, on Nov. 29-Dec. 1 in Tangub City.

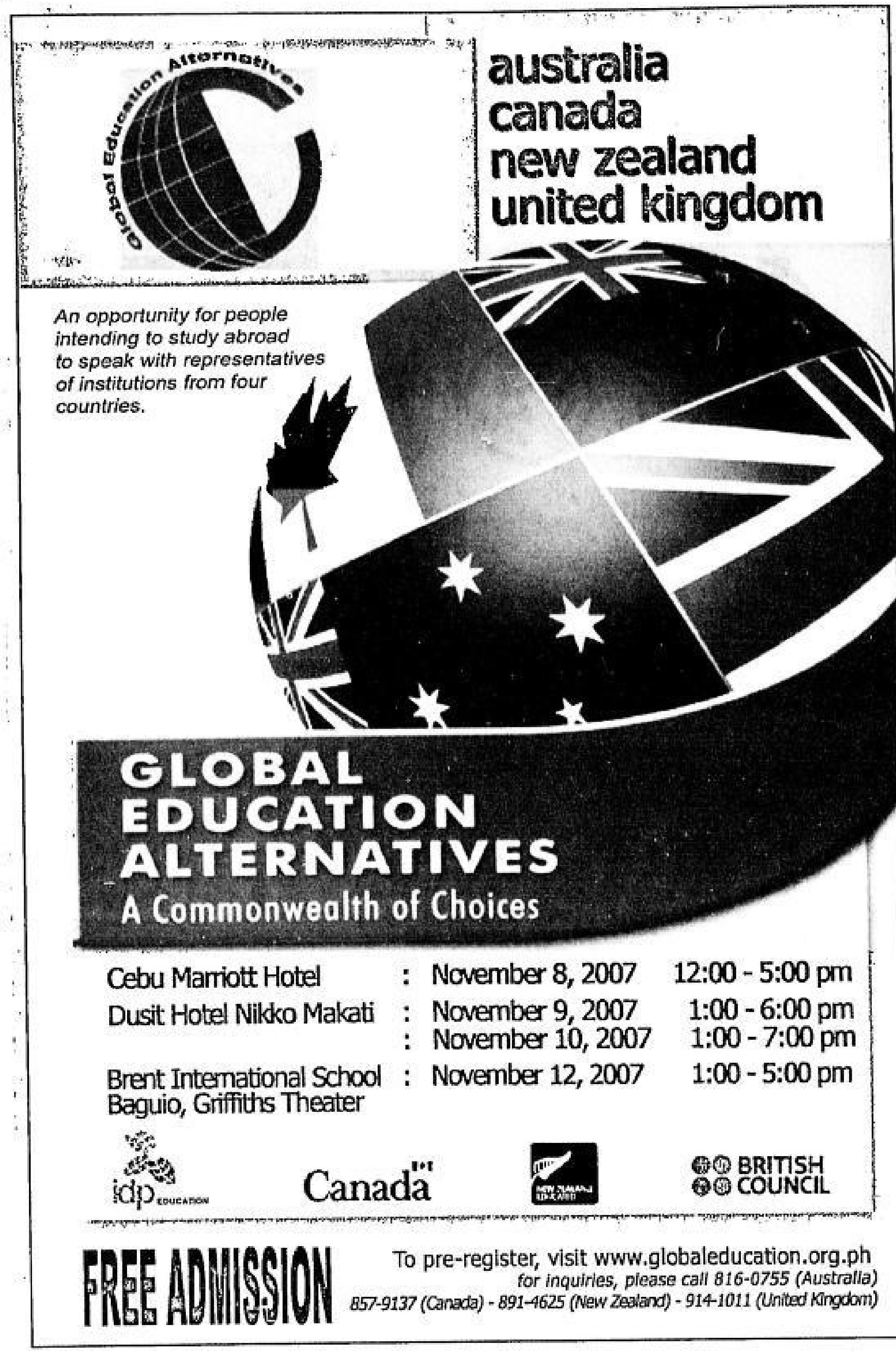
The conference, with the theme "Focus on Mindanao and Sulu," is cosponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts' Committee on Historical Research, the Tangub Historical Commission and the City of Tangub in Misamis Occidental.

Among the speakers are Samuel K. Tan, who will deliver the keynote lecture titled "Beyond Local History: The Case of Sulu History in National Perspective;" Calbi A. Asain (Mindanao State University-Sulu); Erlinda K. Alburo, P. Emelio S. Pascual, Nestor Roa-Pacana and George Emmanuel R. Borrinaga (University of San Carlos, Cebu City); Rolando O. Borrinaga (University of the Philippines in Palo, Leyte); Maria Nela B. Florendo, Raymundo D. Rovillos and Delfin L. Tolentino Jr. (UP Baguio); Patricia Irene Dacudao and Stephen Henry S. Totanes (Ateneo de Manila University); Earl Jude Paul L. Cleope (Silliman University); Violeta S. Ignacio (UP Pampanga); Heidi K. Gloria (Ateneo de Davao University); Manuel R. Tawagon (MSU-Marawi); Sharon Delmendo (St. John Fisher College, Rochester, New York); Cynthia Marasigan (University of Michigan); and Shinzo Hayase (Osaka University, Japan).

Founded in 1941, the PNHS has held annual conferences on local and national history in various locations nationwide, usually focusing on the local history of the region or province where the conference is held.

The first conference was held in 1978 at Xavier University.

Interested parties may contact Dr. Bernardita R. Churchill, PNHS president and national convener, at (02) 921-4575, (02) 926-1347, 0918-4444510 or nitachurchill@hotmail.com; Tangub Historical Commission coconveners Narcisa A. Naron at 0906-7609932 and Judith Bayog-Tablan at 0926-2330080 or (088) 354-1591.



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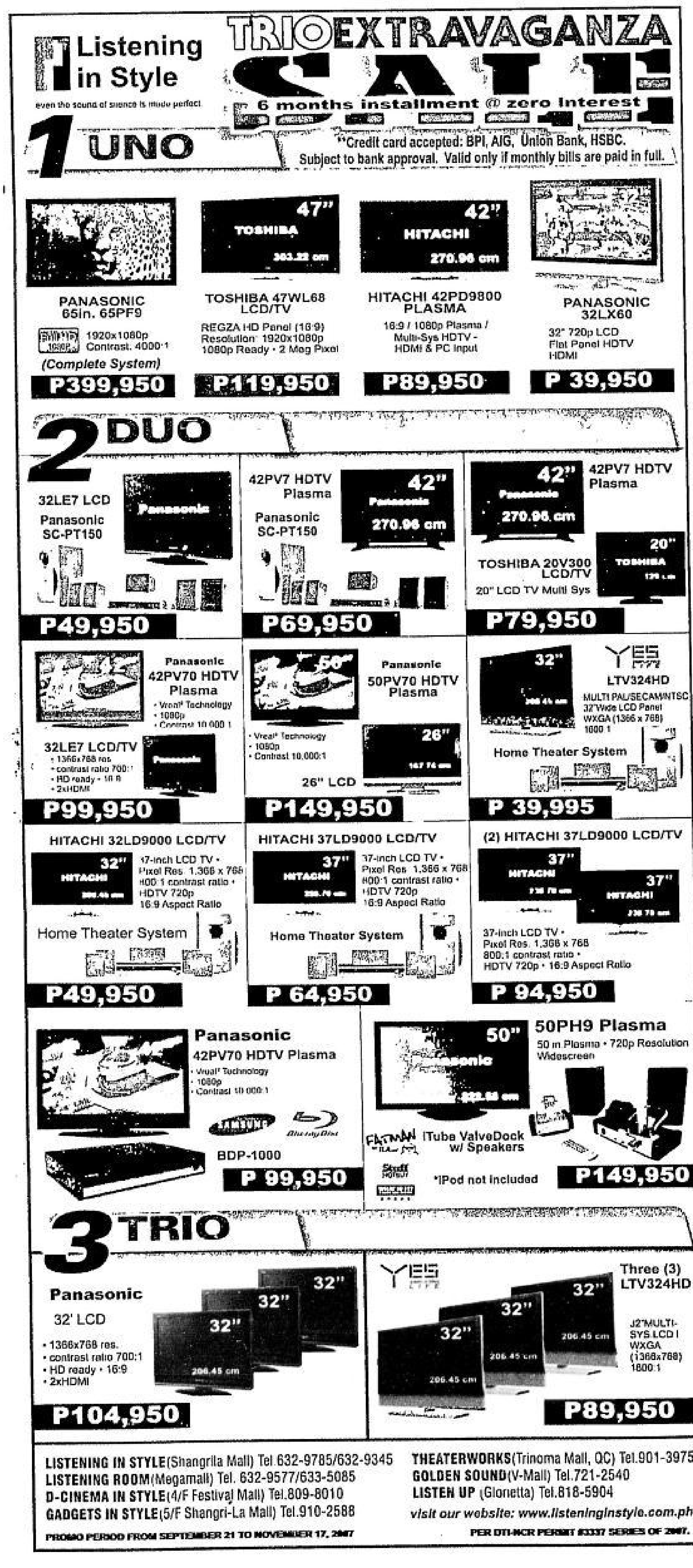

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Rene, Erap talked of dancing, son's wedding hours earlier

By Kristine L. Alave

HOURS BEFORE THE FATEFUL accident, Rene and Dulce Saguisag were at Joseph Estrada's home where the conversation included a plan to show off their dancing skills during a meeting today of the deposed President's former Cabinet.

Saguisag and other Estrada lawyers had met on Wednesday at 1 Polk St., North Greenhills, San Juan City, to discuss their response to the Sandiganbayan Special Division's writ of execution ordering the newly pardoned plunder convict to pay the government P700 million within five days.

Per the account of Edward Serapio, a member of the legal team, Saguisag was a bit cheery during the meeting that started in the afternoon and ended at 7 p.m.

The lawyers unanimously agreed to file a motion to quash the writ delivered to Estrada on Tuesday, Serapio said.

Dance exhibition

After the legal talk was over, Saguisag and Estrada moved to happier subjects—ballroom dancing and the December wedding of Saguisag's son, Rebo.

"They were talking about ballroom dancing. There was even a plan, an activity, where [the Saguisags] would give an exhibition. They were joking about it," Serapio said.

"The accident was just unfortunate," he said.

Estrada himself said he was "depressed" by news of the accident.

He said he and his family were "praying for Rene's recovery and for the soul of Dulce," who had served as social welfare secretary during his term.

Estrada said Saguisag wanted him to stand as one of the godparents at the wedding of the latter's son, along with former President Corazon Aquino.

"Senator Saguisag is my lawyer. He's a highly respected lawyer and a very principled man," Estrada said.

Close family friends

Former Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito Estrada said the Saguisag and Estrada families were close but became more so after Saguisag joined the legal team of her husband, who was on trial for plunder and perjury for six years.

She said Saguisag was in "high spirits" on Wednesday and even requested that she serve *turon* (banana rolls), his favorite.

"He wanted to bring some of it home," she said.

Saguisag wife dies in crash; ex-senator still in ICU

From page A1

pulse and heartbeat, and her husband with serious head and body injuries.

Their driver, Felipe Calvario, was in critical condition. The third passenger of the van, dance instructor Rhea Obong, was also hurt, but doctors said her injuries were not serious.

Manuel Geronimo, the truck driver, claimed that the traffic light had signaled a go for Osmeña Highway at the time he crossed the intersection.

But taxi driver Jeofrey Olmoges, who said he was one car behind the Saguisags' van at the time, insisted that they had the right of way as they had the green light.

"I even honked my horn when [the van] did not immediately cross to the other side because the light was already green," he said in Filipino.

Makati police filed charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide, multiple serious physical injuries and damage to property against Geronimo, 42, in the City Prosecutor's Office yesterday afternoon.

Assistant Prosecutor Hannibal Santillan recommended bail of P30,000 for Geronimo, who was set to be moved to the detention cell at the Makati police station at press time.

Police have taken custody of the dump truck.

Saguisag, a lawyer of ousted President Joseph Estrada, was admitted to the intensive care unit of the Makati Medical Center (MMC) for "severe trauma to the head and chest."

Erap visit

Estrada arrived at around 9:20 p.m. and stayed for about five minutes inside the ICU on the second floor, where Saguisag lay unconscious.

Estrada said he last talked with Saguisag on Wednesday night during a party with lawyers at his residence on Polk Street in San Juan.

He said he was supposed to meet Saguisag again today for a reunion with his old Cabinet members.

"He told me he was going to bring a DI (dance instructor)."

"She was a workaholic," Estrada said of Dulce, who served him as social welfare secretary. "Her heart and mind were for the poor."

Estrada came with his wife, Loi Ejercito, son Jinggoy and his wife Precy, and daughter Jackie with husband Beaver.

Medical bulletin

According to a medical bulletin issued by the MMC's patient relations officer, Eric Nubla, at 4 p.m. yesterday, Saguisag "responded favorably to treatment he has been receiving for his injuries and is now more awake."

Nubla said Saguisag could talk, although "not so much."

Visitors, such as Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, reported that Saguisag could follow doctors' instructions to raise his arm or tighten his grip.

Nubla said a team of physicians led by neurosurgeon Victor Alvarez and including a chest specialist, an orthopedic doctor and a cardiologist were attending to Saguisag.

Driver Calvario, who sustained injuries similar to Saguisag's and was also admitted to the ICU, is in "stable condition," the bulletin said.

Obong was discharged after being treated for minor injuries.

An earlier bulletin issued at noon said the doctors were considering "surgical intervention" to address complications in Saguisag's injuries. But the 4 p.m. bulletin said surgery "at this time is less likely."

No other bulletin was expected yesterday. Nubla said bulletins would be issued at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. every day for the next few days.

He also said that on the Saguisag family's request, he would not disclose details on the ex-senator's condition other than what would be in the bulletins.

Good chances of recovery

"The doctors said my father's chances of recovery were good. But about his quality of life, they're afraid that his intellectual faculties would no longer be 100 percent," said Rebo Saguisag, 35.

According to Senator Estrada, Saguisag had seven cracked ribs on his left side, and a CAT scan showed there was a "hemorrhage" in the brain.

"We're still trying to comprehend what happened. Everything happened so fast. I don't even know if I'm coherent," said Rebo, a lawyer like his father.

"Ballroom dancing was one of their ways to relieve stress," he said. "My mom loved to dance and my dad loves to sing. It was one of the things they loved doing."

Rebo, who arrived at the MMC wearing a Harvard Law T-shirt, shorts and slippers, said his last conversation with his mother was on Wednesday night: "We just made small talk. We were talking about my upcoming wedding."

He and his fiancee, Jackie Crisologo, also a lawyer, had planned their wedding for next month. But because of the tragedy, it may have to be put on hold.

"That's the least of my worries now," Rebo said. "All sorts of things are going through my mind, like I should have spent more time with [my mother]—things like that.

"The [reality] hasn't sunk in yet."

Rebo said seeing his father, who is also his boss, in such a state was a harrowing experience.

Cabbie's account

"He is the kind of father who I'm always confident would be there to help me out in all aspects of my life," the son said. "He has always been a father figure to me, and he has such strength of mind."

Olmoges said that after honking his horn at the Saguisags' van, he saw the dump truck hurtling toward it. "It was very fast. I think it was moving at 120 [kilometers per hour]," he said.

This was how he continued his account:

There was a loud crash, "like the bursting of a tire." He saw the van being dragged "20 steps" by the truck.

"No one moved immediately. We were all just staring in shock." His instincts told Olmoges to get to the van immediately and to help those who were inside it. "I didn't even know it was Saguisag."

But his passenger, a call center agent, told Olmoges to go on to their destination in Bicutan, Taguig City.

"He said he really wanted to rest, and that he did not want to see blood. He even congratulated me, saying I was the first person he had encountered who would try to help at a time like that."

Later, Olmoges heard on the radio that the truck driver, Geronimo, was claiming innocence. This prompted him to report what he knew to the police.

Truck driver's story

Geronimo said he, with an assistant he knew only as "Puroy," had been on the road for an hour and was on his way back to Bulacan after unloading gravel in Laguna.

This was his account while detained at the Makati Traffic Enforcement Unit headquarters:

"Traffic was light; there weren't many vehicles. When I got [to the intersection] and I saw the green light, I continued driving. Of course, I had the right to drive on because the light was green.

"When I stepped on the gas, the van was there ... It was a bit fast and when I stepped on the brakes, I could no longer stop the truck."

He was not sleepy at the time as his regular driving shift was at night, routinely leaving his truck's base in Sta. Maria, Bulacan, for Laguna at around 9 p.m. and making the return trip at around midnight to wind up before dawn the next day.

"I stepped on the gas and it so happened [the van] was also crossing. After the impact, I stopped my engine. I saw people running toward us ... I could not get off at first because I was still shocked and I felt pain in my chest ... It might have hit the steering wheel."

Nervous, weak

Geronimo said that when he finally got off the truck, he overheard people giving grim descriptions of the van's passengers.

He continued his account thus:

"I became nervous because I heard people say two passengers were in danger ... I felt weak."

He felt even weaker when an investigator on the scene told him that the passengers included Saguisag.

"I told him, I did not want this to happen ... When I [heard Saguisag's name], I felt pale because we all know who he is."

Geronimo said he corrected bystanders who were offering up theories about what happened.

"All the people there, the bystanders, they did not know I was the driver and I heard them say the driver may have been sleepy. I told them: 'The driver wasn't asleep because I was the driver.'

"The investigators did not have a hard time" because he readily identified himself as the driver.

Geronimo could not say where his assistant went. Police said the latter could have hitched a ride with other truckers passing through Osmeña Highway shortly after the accident.

The rescuers

It was Madz Bacamante, a member of the Makati Rescue Team, who called in the emergency team, said Councilor Jejomar Erwin Binay, team head.

Bacamante lives on Tengco Street, a block from the accident site, and was outside his house when he heard the crash, Binay said.

Immediately, he went to the site and called Makati Rescue's radio unit to dispatch an ambulance, rescuer Ray Glenn Veruen said.

This allowed the rescue team to get to the site "in about five minutes," Veruen said.

No signs of life

Upon arriving, the rescue team smashed the windshield to gain access, and proceeded to retrieve the passengers one by one.

The Saguisags were seated in the middle section of the van—Dulce behind the driver's seat and her husband beside her. Obong was seated beside Calvario.

Veruen said that Dulce showed no signs of life: "She was in a supine position and unresponsive. There was no heartbeat and no pulse.

"It seemed she bore the brunt of the crash, since the truck crashed into her side."

On the other hand, Saguisag and Calvario were "moaning," Veruen said. "It seemed the driver was unconscious, but he was making sounds."

"We introduced ourselves and then we said, 'Sir, we're here to help you.' Then Attorney Saguisag managed to say yes," Veruen said.

Sad news

President Macapagal-Arroyo described the accident as "tragic," according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"It's very sad news. Let's pray for the swift recovery of the former senator and the peaceful rest of his wife, Dulce," Bunye quoted Ms Arroyo as saying.

"At the proper time, the President will find time to drop by," he said. ***With reports from Julie M. Aurelio and Michael Lim Ubac***

She saved the last dance for him; rescuers found her with no pulse

From page A1

"Even me, personally, I don't want to tell him yet. It's too soon," he said.

Rebo, whose nickname is short for "rebolusyon" (revolution), said that despite her years in public service as then President Joseph Estrada's social welfare secretary, Dulce remained a very private person.

He said Rene, despite his acerbic personality, and Dulce were actually quite shy, but Dulce more so.

He remembered the family coming together on Sundays for dinner, as well as on important occasions.

"I wish I had spent more time with her," he said of his mother.

The Saguisags have five children.

Swing favorite dance

In dancing, Rene and Dulce forgot all their cares. They did the swing at least one night a week in places where dance lovers gather in Makati City.

"It was a good way for them to de-stress. When they were on the dance floor, they forgot about everything. They did not care about anything. And they were very good," said Toni Gregory, another longtime friend.

"It's good that she had her last dance because she really loved dancing," said Gregory, who met Dulce at Mondragon International Philippines Inc. in 1990, when the latter had been working for the company for six years.

Good friends of the Saguisags recalled that the couple regularly went out to dance for years.

"They loved ballroom dancing because they have no other vice except dancing. I think they went two to three times a week," said Cherry dela Rosa, Dulce's college friend at the University of the Philippines and later colleague at the then Social Welfare Administration (SWA).

Gregory recalled being invited by the couple to their weekly dance sessions in a Makati hotel and, recently, at the Bykes Cafe on Chino Roces Avenue.

"It's their exercise. And swing was their favorite. When Dulce and I were together, I could really see how good she was," said Dela Rosa, who said the couple must have gone to dances regularly for 10 to 15 years.

"She always said that that was how they had fun, a part of their exercise to keep young and fit," said Social Welfare Undersecretary Celia Yangco, who worked under Dulce during the latter's stint as social welfare secretary from 1998 until she resigned in January 2000.

They got rhythm

But even when the dancing shoes were off, the Saguisags apparently kept the rhythm.

Dulce took on what could be seen as a soft role as a social worker, and Rene became a toughie as an opposition leader. But their lives and careers jibed, if not exact to the beat.

"You know, they both loved the Philippines very much in their [respective] ways. And I saw their dedication," said Dela Rosa, who had Dulce as her boss at the SWA's Bureau of Family and Community Welfare from 1969 to 1972.

SHAKEN, DAZED: Dance instructress Rhea Obong is comforted by friends after she was extracted from the van. RONALD URBINA

Said Yangco: "Actually, she respected his role [as an opposition leader], although Rene is more vocal. She provided a kind of balance, a reminder for him ... in the same way that Rene did for her."

Gregory said Dulce never complained about her husband's frequent dances with politics and politicos. The former senator—a close friend of opposition leader Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and lawyer and friend to Estrada—is among the most vocal critics of the Arroyo administration.

I AM INNOCENT, the driver Manuel Geronimo in so many words claims, saying he had the right of way when the Saguisag van suddenly appeared at the middle of the intersection of Osmeña Highway and Arnaiz Avenue. RAFFY LERMA

"She totally believed in his beliefs. She never went against his principles," Gregory said.

In shock

Dulce's friends responded with shock and disbelief to news that she died in a road mishap yesterday morning.

"I was stunned. I couldn't sleep anymore. I kept on talking to her, walking up and down in my room. I was trying to feel her," said Gregory, who learned about her friend's death at 4 a.m.

Yangco received the news at 6:30 a.m., after getting off a plane that took her from Manila to Zamboanga City, where she was to meet with local social welfare officials.

"When I got off the plane, somebody told me that Dulce had died... I knew that she had [breast] cancer, so I thought it was because of that... It's such a loss to the country's social development," Yangco said.

A building security guard who knows about her friendship with Dulce broke the news to Dela Rosa when she got to her office, the nongovernment organization Kaisahang Buhay Foundation, yesterday morning.

"I said, 'What? Was it her cancer?'" Dela Rosa said, adding:

"I was really shocked. I couldn't say anything. It's really a test of your belief and faith in God. She was a good woman, and all of a sudden this thing happened."

Dulce was active in Bosom Buddies, a support group for breast cancer survivors.

'Cariño brutal'

Rebo said his parents' relationship was not like that of typical sweethearts:

"They were sweet in their own way, but it was more like *cariño brutal* (rough love).

"My dad has always been open about it, that he has failings as a family man ... My mom, all of us, had to share him with the country.

"He is a very busy man, and he divided among all of us his efforts, time and energy," Rebo said, referring to his father's work as a human rights lawyer. "And he is very thankful my mom took care of us [five children] while he was away."

The children are Rebo, 35, a lawyer; Lara, 33, a writer; Nonoy, 31; Mikki, 26, and Caissa, 16, an award-winning gymnast.

The Saguisags had asked Senator Arroyo to stand as one of the principal sponsors for Rebo's wedding next month.

Mabini

Arroyo and Saguisag were original members of Mabini, a group of lawyers that gave free legal services to victims of martial law.

When Corazon Aquino became President in 1986, Arroyo served as executive secretary and Saguisag as chief presidential legal counsel.

Joker Arroyo was all praise for Dulce for her work in social welfare.

He said that when he heard the tragic news, he was reminded of a letter he wrote to Dulce last month, which he was not able to send.

The senator said he wrote the letter after coming upon a newspaper article that misstated Dulce's name as "Daisy Saguisag."

Arroyo's handwritten letter read:

"Dear Daisy, I prefer Dulce, it is sweeter. Meant to call you 3 weeks ago but couldn't find anymore the paper that indicated you had your name changed, picture & all. How fast the world turns. Your medalist daughter [Caissa] was just a baby, a kid, now you are obsessed with gymnastics.

"Affectionately, Joker 14 Oct 07." ***With a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan***

20-YEAR CASE

Tan lawyers invoke right to speedy trial

LAWYERS OF LUCIO Tan yesterday invoked their client's right to speedy trial and urged the Sandiganbayan to compel the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) to terminate within the month its presentation of evidence in the ill-gotten wealth case against the business tycoon.

Estelito Mendoza and Orlando Santiago, Tan's counsels, asked the antigraft court to order PCGG to finish presenting their evidence by Nov. 22 or 29, saying that government lawyers had been wasting the court's time with "unwarranted delays" in the case.

Filed in July 1987, civil case No. 0005 against Tan and associates has been pending for over 20 years, the lawyers said in a press statement.

"Its pendency has inflicted on defendants irreparable damages. Thus far, plaintiff (Republic of the Philippines) has already taken one and a half years presenting its evidence. Plaintiff does not appear to have any plan to wind up. It may take eternity before trial of the case is concluded," the lawyers said.

SC admonition

The PCGG and lawyers from the Office of the Solicitor General started presenting evidence on May 16 last year, almost 19 years after the filing of the case.

In their 13-page motion, Mendoza and Santiago reiterated the Supreme Court's admonition issued on Oct. 10, 2000 and reiterated in 2001 that, "decision making is the primordial and most important duty of a member of the bench. The rule particularly applies to justices of the Sandiganbayan."

The lawyers also pointed out that in all, PCGG-OSG has been given a total of 34 trial days of which eight were supposedly wasted due to unavailability of witnesses or absence of a government counsel. Five were cancelled at the Court's initiative.

They added that government even called to the witness stand record officers who had no personal knowledge of the matters involved and who testified for only a few minutes.

"Substantial amount of trial time has been spent by the plaintiff for witnesses who could have been presented in only or two hearing dates. Plaintiff should not be allowed any further to present its evidence on a piecemeal basis, particularly, a few minutes at a time," Tan's lawyers said.

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LP congressmen admit receiving cash gifts, too

From page A1

11 affair. But he said he was not at liberty to disclose the details. He also refused to say how many LP members actually received cash gifts.

"They told me that the money was intact and that they were ready to return it," he said.

Senate inquiry Nov. 14

Gov. Ed Panlilio of Pampanga, who blew the lid off the scandal when he announced two days later that he received a paper bag containing P500,000 as he was leaving the Palace, said he had been summoned to appear at the Senate inquiry on Nov. 14.

"I will just have to tell the truth," Panlilio told the INQUIRER on Wednesday. "I just have to tell what happened really."

Confused

Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza has also admitted getting P500,000 in Malacañang during a separate meeting of local officials with Ms Arroyo over lunch, following her breakfast meeting with the congressmen earlier that day.

Tañada said the LP members were "watching closely" developments in the bribery scandal that broke out in the midst of a fresh attempt to impeach President Arroyo over new corruption allegations that included the controversial $329-million broadband deal with China to wire digitally the entire Philippine bureaucracy.

Tañada said he and his fellow party mates were "confused" over the recent turn of events, particularly referring to Villarosa's decision to own up to the P500,000 cash gifts received by Representatives Bienvenido Abante of Manila and Thomas Dumpit of La Union.

Tañada pointed out that Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Kampi's chair, had earlier pointed to Speaker Jose de Venecia as the source of the money.

Puno on Wednesday said he owed De Venecia an apology now that Villarosa had made the admission.

"They (LP members) don't know where the money came from so the procedure of returning it is not really clear to them yet," Tañada said, noting that his party mates were facing the same dilemma as Panlilio, a priest who is on leave.

Marcos edict on gifts

Tañada said the LP members were wary of the possibility of "incriminating" themselves if they made a public admission. He said his fellow lawmakers were concerned over provisions of Presidential Decree No. 46, a stringent Marcos-era measure against public officials receiving gifts.

Tañada said the LP members were also trying to determine the right venue to discuss the cash distribution.

He said there were reservations over the planned investigation by the House committee on ethics, noting that its members could have also been present at the Malacañang meeting.

In that case, Tañada said committee members themselves would similarly be confronted with accusations that they, too, had received cash gifts.

"There is a concern that the investigation might be tainted," he said. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

CBCP head suspicious of cash gift admissions, wants GMA to explain

From page A1

On Wednesday, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, who is also the President's acting political adviser, scolded Villarosa for announcing without telling him that the money distributed during the Oct. 11 breakfast meeting in Malacañang had come from Kampi funds.

Puno knew about cash

Villarosa, Kampi secretary, said the cash gifts were a party initiative handed out without the knowledge of Ms Arroyo. She said Rep. Luis Villafuerte, Kampi president, and Puno, Kampi chair, knew about the money.

Several other congressmen have said they received cash gifts during the Malacañang affair.

Money in envelopes also were distributed to governors during a separate meeting of local officials with Ms Arroyo in Malacañang on Oct. 11. The League of Provinces of the Philippines has admitted it was the source of the cash gifts amounting to P500,000 each under the LPP's "capacity building program."

Lagdameo said administration officials should have come out with the admission immediately after Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio announced he had received P500,000 in Malacañang after attending the lunch meeting with Ms Arroyo.

Lagdameo said it was up to the appropriate government agencies to continue the investigation of the controversy.

"They must ensure that government officials are honest, transparent, accountable and responsible," he said.

Lagdameo last month issued a statement questioning the dole.

Moral bankruptcy

"From the moral standpoint, one should not accept money about which questions can be asked because it renders responsibility, accountability and transparency a dubious subject matter," Lagdameo said.

He said that with the reported giving of money to officials, "our country is not only suffering from economic bankruptcy but also moral bankruptcy, disappointingly being shown by our leaders."

LAGDAMEO: More suspicions than clear answers.

"We are very much concerned with our youth who are looking at our leaders for models in honesty, integrity and transparency," he said.

Misamis Occidental Gov. Loreto Leo Ocampos, LPP president, told the INQUIRER by phone that the LPP had begun an investigation of the payoffs. He said the probe would center on Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes and Samar Gov. Ben Evardone who had both admitted that the doles to governors had come from the LPP.

"I am a new president so it would be good to know how the funds are being disbursed," he said. Ocampos, who was elected LPP president in August, said he wanted the issue discussed "truthfully."

In an earlier interview with a local newspaper in Ozamis City, Ocampos admitted that he felt annoyed upon hearing the news that the LPP was responsible for the doles. "I have no knowledge about the release of the money," Ocampos said.

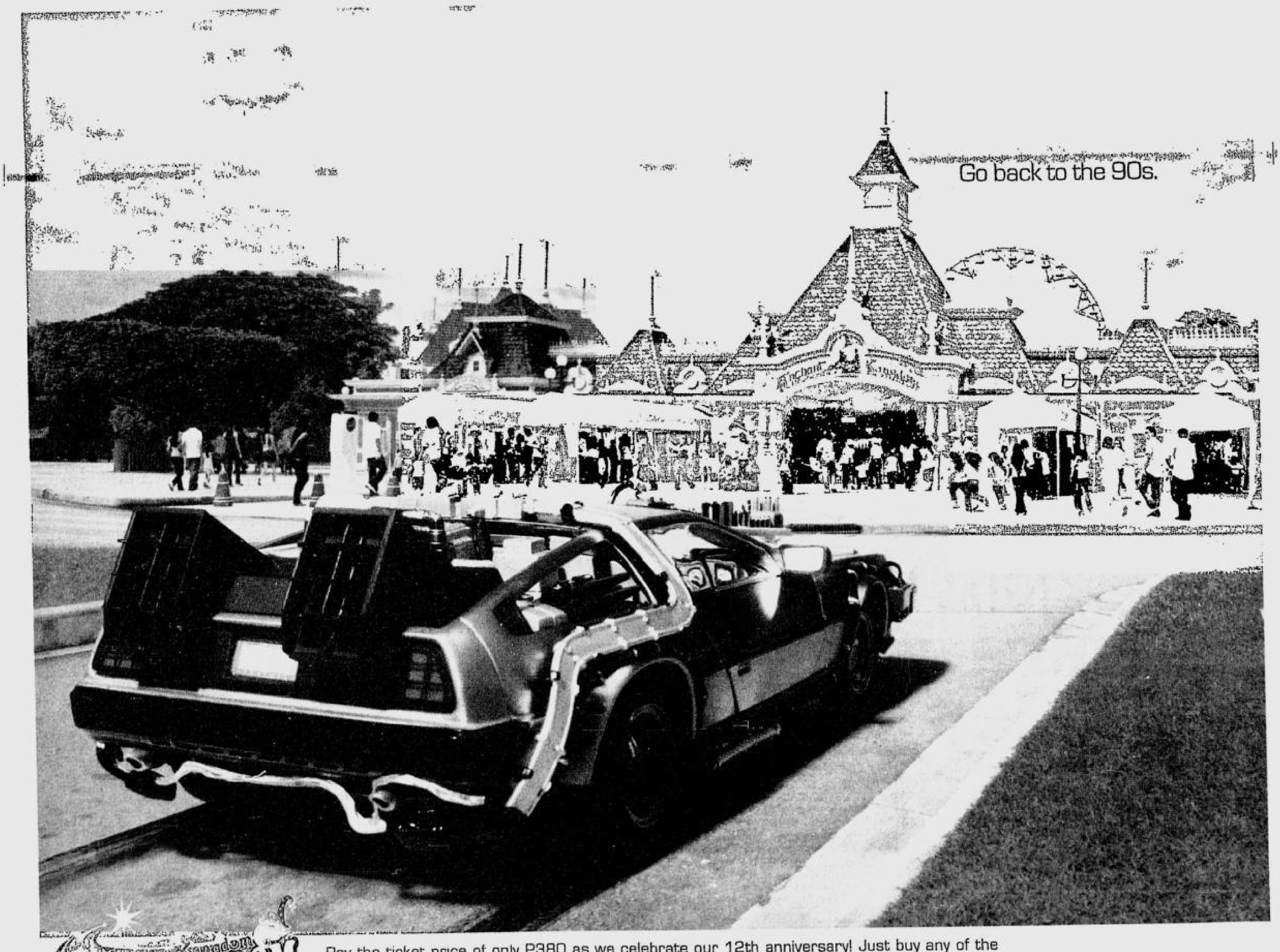
He confirmed the LPP had P21 million in its coffers and that this included funding from foreign organizations. He did not elaborate but he recalled that a German organization had paid for a recent LPP convention in Cebu City.

Gift-giving practice

In Cotabato City, former Maguindanao Rep. Guimid Matalam said that being given gifts, including monthly cash allowances, was not unusual during the five-year term of the first post-martial law Congress during the Corazon Aquino administration.

Matalam said aside from funds from Malacañang, congressmen also received "lobby gifts" from some company executives. He termed this as a "normal" practice during the 8th Congress from 1987 to 1992.

Matalam told the INQUIRER the gifts included year-round supplies of cigarettes and drinks from company executives for each of the smoking and drinking congressmen. *With reports from Nash B. Maulana, Inquirer Mindanao, and Ryan D. Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao*



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Gov't plan to sell PNOC-EDC assailed

SEN. JOKER ARROYO YESTERDAY LAMbasted the Department of Finance for prioritizing the sale of the state's crown jewels, specifically the Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) instead of loss making government owned and controlled corporations.

Arroyo warned that the sale of 60 percent of PNOC-EDC could go the way of the sale of 60 percent of Petron Corp. where the government lost its leverage in controlling the pricing of oil.

The privatization would mean that the PNOC-EDC, which was formed more than three decades ago, would throw out the window its original mandate to explore and harness indigenous sources of energy.

"Why does this government have this incorrigible habit of selling good companies which are money making and not trying its best to dispose of the money-losing companies which are burdens to the government?" asked Arroyo after hearing of the DOF's privatization plans during the budget hearings at the Senate.

Arroyo could not explain why the government would sell off a company that has been recognized as number one in steam technology and number in geothermal output.

Arroyo noted that the sale of PNOC-EDC, which would yield P45 billion or three times the amount involved in the scandal-ridden national broadband network deal, was initially pushed for disposition in the Ramos administration but it did not take off.

Geriatic health care pushed

THE GOVERNMENT will boost geriatric health care in an attempt to attract retirees from developed countries, President Gloria Arroyo said yesterday.

Hundreds of thousands of people already visit the Philippines every year to take advantage of affordable medical services, and the country hopes to boost their numbers by attracting more foreign retirees.

But Arroyo said the Philippines needed to improve training for geriatric healthcare specialists if it was to attract their business.

"There is a lack of trained health professionals in the field of geriatrics and gerontology, and there is inadequate research on key issues pertinent to old age," she told a medical industry conference in Manila.

She said only four medical schools in the country offered geriatric health care in their curriculum.

Speaking at the same forum Miguel Ramos, vice president of the Philippine Society of Geriatric Medicine, said that while the country avidly promoted medical tourism, the campaigns barely mentioned geriatric medicine.

They instead promoted expensive procedures such as cosmetic surgery. *AFP*

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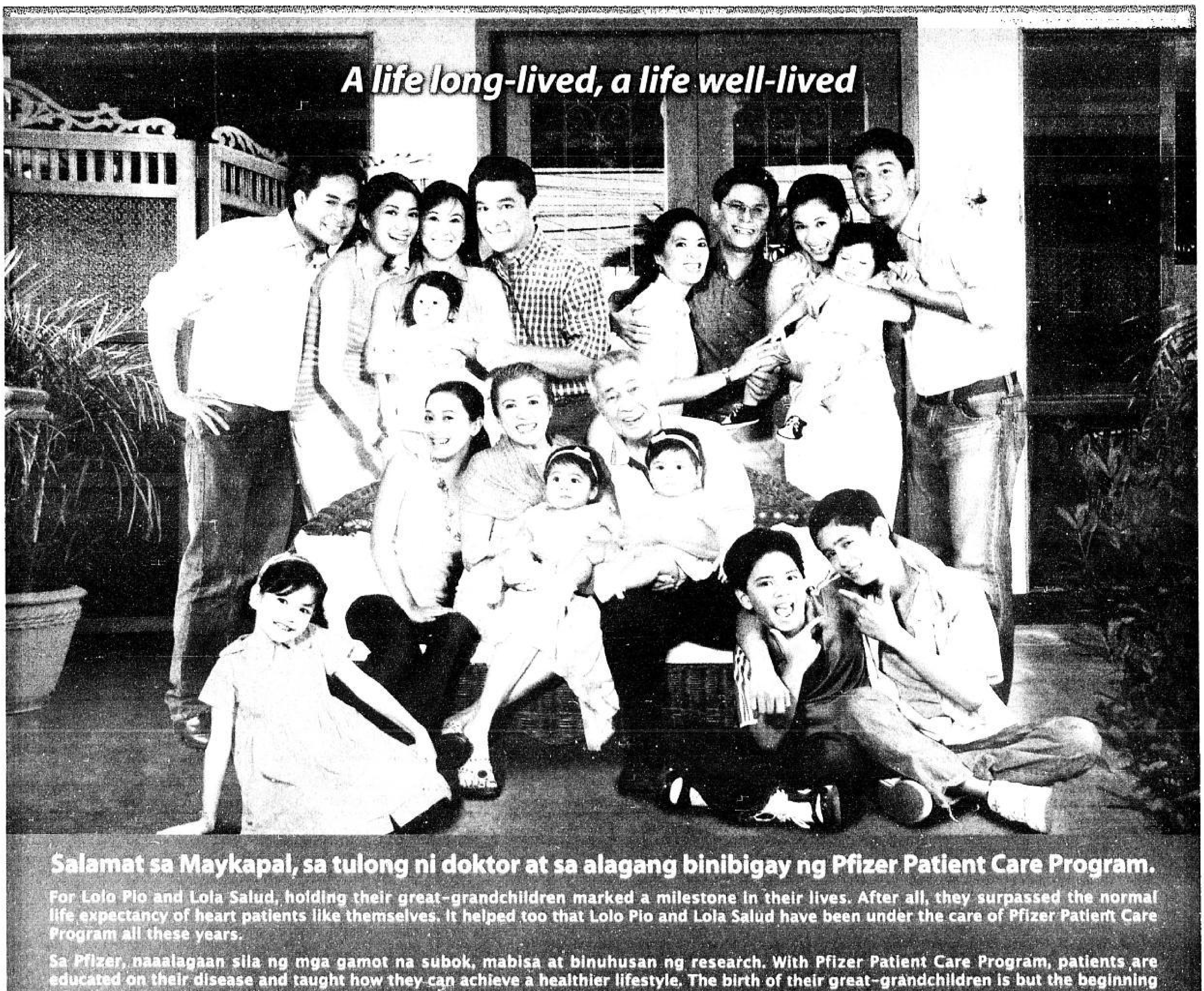
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OPINION

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'Na-onse'

EDITORIAL

THE MIRACULOUS SHOWER OF CASH GIFTS IN Malacañang fell on the parched heads of our congressmen and local executives on Oct. 11—a date which captures the nature of that miracle: shameless deception.

As we say in Filipino, *"Na-onse tayo."* The expression is sharp and street-wise. We've been had. Or more precisely, we're being had.

The latest theologian of cash politics to come forward is Deputy Speaker Amelita Villarosa, who said last Tuesday that the money the congressmen received actually came from the generous coffers of the President's own party, Kampi. The cash gifts, Villarosa said, were a "party initiative without the knowledge of the President."

And of the party chair too, if the party chair himself is to be believed. On Wednesday, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno conceded that the money for the congressmen did come from the party he chairs, but—up Twilight Zone music and under—he did not know anything about it. "Obviously, I was not very happy that I'm the last to know," he said.

Neither is the public, because Puno was not only the last to know, he was the first to report. As Puno himself put it, "since I have been making public statements I feel that I should have been informed earlier so that I'm not shooting off my mouth." Translation: I lied.

Let's take a moment to study Puno's latest concatenation of prefabricated phrases. If he was, in fact, out of the loop, every single thing he has said about the cash gifts was a lie, mere political spin. Which brings us to a variation on a classic problem in logic: If he lied then, why should we think he isn't lying now?

When he says, for example, that "This has nothing to do with the Palace. I personally did not know about that," why should we accept his alleged ignorance as proof of the President's alleged non-involvement? Even if we grant that he did not know the source of the cash gifts, how can he vouch that the President did not in fact leave instructions with someone else in Kampi?

This much is clear. When the man in charge of the country's police forces says, "I guess if you're seeing confusion on our part, it's because we are [confused] ... But certainly, we here [in the Palace] do not have anything to do with any of these things," he is, yet again, engaged in spin.

The problem with Puno's version is that it lacks the vital element of plausible deniability. To be believable, his denial of any knowledge of the cash gifts' provenance requires him to project the image of a hands-off official—the exact opposite of the hands-on operator that he is.

Consider what Villarosa actually said. She said Puno, as party chair, and Rep. Luis Villafuerte, as party president, knew about the money. "He [Puno] knows the disbursement but not the details," she said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Consider Puno's other job. As the presidential political affairs adviser, it is his responsibility to look after the President's political alliances. If he did not know that the two meetings the President conducted in Malacañang on Oct. 11—breakfast with congressmen, lunch with local executives—involved the distribution of cash gifts, the kind of transaction that cements political relationships in this day and age, then the President needs another political adviser, immediately. But would Puno rival Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita in influence if he were derelict in his duties?

Consider his most recent campaign success. Against the interests of Kampi's senior leaders, including Villafuerte and candidate Pablo Garcia, Puno backed the candidacy of Lakas co-founder Jose de Venecia for speakership. Not even De Venecia has denied the kind of support he received from Puno during the contest. His instrumental intervention would not have succeeded if he did not pay close attention to the details of political give-and-take.

Now, despite Villarosa's belated confession, Puno wants us to believe that he did not know anything about the cash gifts. That gives us a clear choice: Either the shower of blessings last Oct. 11 was truly a miracle, or we are, once again, being shamelessly deceived.

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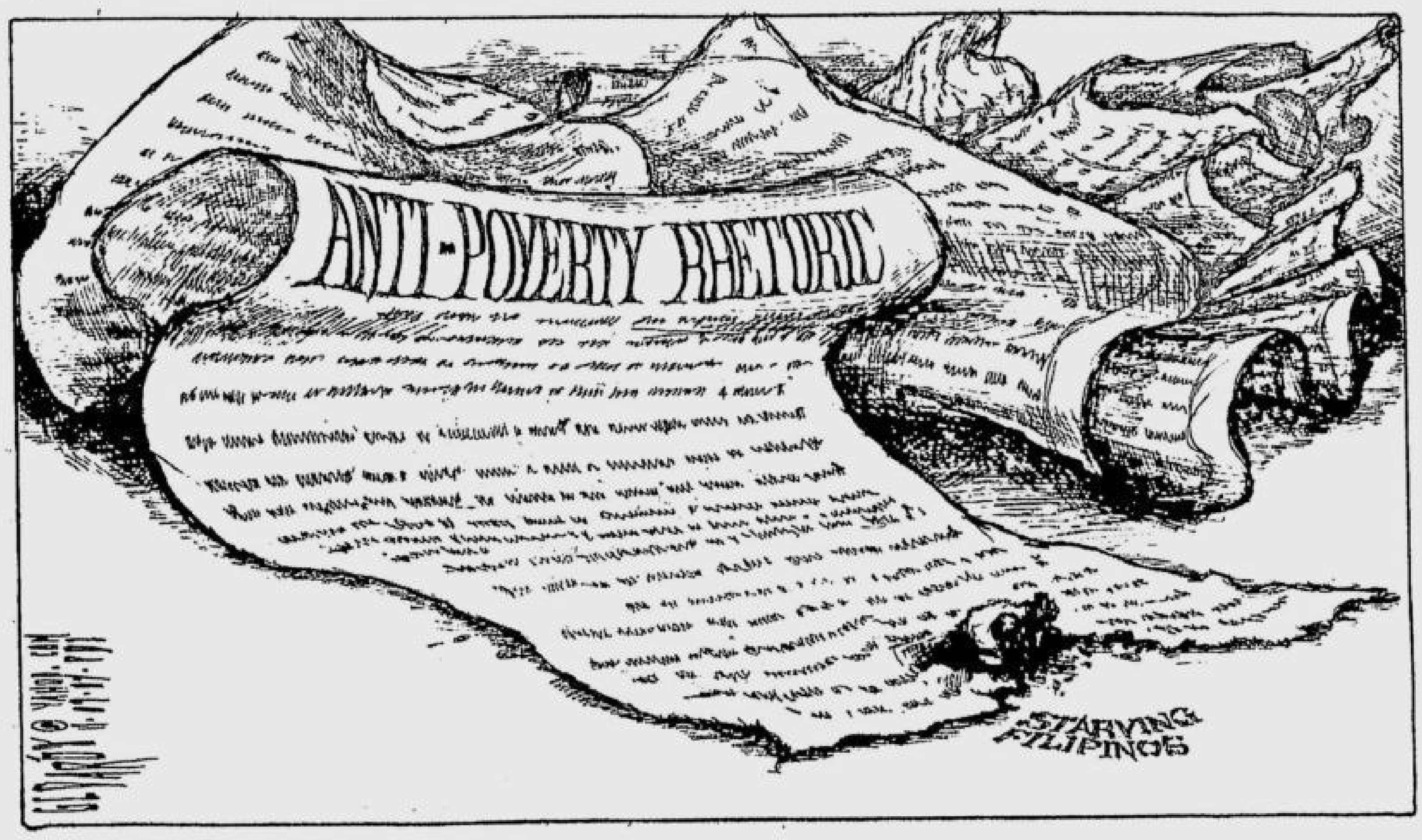

Of liars, thieves and ingrates

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FRANKLY, I DON'T BELIEVE REP. AMELITA Villarosa when she said it was Kampi, President(?) Macapagal-Arroyo's political party, which distributed cash "gifts," "assistance," "support" (the administration's euphemisms for bribes) to congressmen and governors in Malacañang recently. Villarosa's statement is just the latest in the series of lies being told to explain away the bribe-giving in Malacañang Palace, the official home of the President. Note that all of these lies have one common refrain: that GMA did not know about the bribery.

But the administration is caught in a quicksand of lies. The more lies it tells to explain the last one, the deeper it is sucked into the muck.

First, it denied that there was any cash distribution. But when some governors and congressmen admitted that they received up to P500,000 in paper bags, and when other congressmen were seen and photographed carrying paper bags as they left the Palace, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno tried to pass the buck to Speaker Jose de Venecia, saying it was the usual *"pabaon"* of the Speaker to congressmen when they go on recess. And he emphasized that GMA had no knowledge of it.

But that raised a lot of other questions. Why did JDV distribute the cash in Malacañang and not in his turf, the House of Representatives? If it was "usual," why were the congressmen ashamed of admitting they received it? If it was *pabaon* for congressmen, why were governors also given? And why didn't JDV claim credit for the largesse when he was never shy before about giving out cash to members of his Rainbow Coalition?

So here comes the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), another ally of GMA, claiming that the money came from it. The league's secretary general, Gov. Ben Evardone of Eastern Samar, said the money was given by the league to governors as a form of assistance; and it came from funds contributed by the other provinces. And by the way, the LPP emphasized, "GMA did not know about it."

Assistance? To Pampanga and Bulacan, which are among the country's richest provinces? Five hundred thousand pesos is just half-a-day's collection of quarry fees in Pampanga. Evardone's Eastern Samar needs it more than Pampanga and Bulacan. And if it was from the LPP, why were congressmen also given cash?

Even the liars themselves could not believe this lie, so now comes Villarosa with a new tale: "The money came from Kampi" and, she emphasized, "GMA did not know about it."

Who knew about it then? Apparently, only Villarosa. Secretary Puno, Kampi chair, didn't know about it. Rep. Luis Villafuerte, Kampi president, didn't know about it. Neither did Rep. Jose Solis, another Kampi leader. Chief Presidential Legal Adviser Sergio Apostol didn't know about it; he said Villarosa should be prosecuted and added that her partymates should all shut up as their different lies only contradict one another.

Villarosa is deputy speaker, so why didn't JDV know about it?

This latest tale only raised more questions. If the money was from Kampi, why did Rep. Bienvenido Abante Jr. get P500,000 when he is not a Kampi member?

To explain this contradiction, Villarosa said opposition legislators were also given money. But why were governors also given cash? And why are some Kampi members complaining that they didn't get any?

Asked where Kampi got the money, Villarosa only replied, "That is our fund." She refused to elaborate.

Admitting that the half-million pesos was given to Abante during the Malacañang gathering, Villarosa said she gave it to him through another person because she didn't want to hand it to him personally as "other congressmen might see it and also ask for money." At the same time, she also said that it came from a pool of funds routinely given to Kampi members. Do you believe that?

I don't believe the talk that Villarosa is trying to save GMA from bribery accusations because she wants her husband, former Occidental Mindoro Gov. Jose Villarosa, who is serving a life sentence in prison for the murder of the Quintos brothers, to be granted executive clemency just like Joseph Estrada. She has denied this, of course, but it really makes you think.

What all these tales—intended to shield GMA from the Malacañang bribery—suggest, at best, is that the President and the leaders of her party Kampi do not know what is going on around them. So how can they govern efficiently? The truth, more likely, is that GMA not only knew about it; she also was the mastermind behind it and that the money came from her generous confidential funds and was meant to bribe the congressmen into killing impeachment cases against her. That, they already did the other day.

The panic in Malacañang is forcing it to concoct more lies but it only gets buried deeper in them as the noose tightens around its occupant.

* * *

"Ingrates!" officers(?) of the National Press Club called the Neo-Angono Artists Collective for protesting the censorship of its press freedom mural.

"Look who's talking?" countered the Government Service Insurance System. "It is the current officers of the NPC who are ingrates," the state insurance firm said. (It wants to differentiate between the NPC and the present officers. It has sued not the whole NPC but only the present officers, for selling the mural painted by National Artist Vicente Manansala.)

The GSIS said it owns the NPC property but allowed the NPC to use it for free. The least the NPC could have done was take care of the property, including the mural. Past NPC officers did. But the present ones, instead of being grateful, sold the mural for P10 million without the permission or knowledge of the GSIS. That's qualified theft! The GSIS is now ejecting the NPC.

Who are the ingrates now?

Picasso and Diego Rivera and the art of war

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE NEO-ANGONO ARTISTS COLLECTIVE should consider themselves lucky.

In 1934, John D. Rockefeller Jr., commissioned Diego Rivera, the fiery Mexican Marxist, to paint a mural for the lobby of the soon-to-be-completed Rockefeller Center in New York. Rivera's "Man at the Crossroads," however, included the image of Lenin, and lore has it that Rockefeller asked Rivera to remove the offending image. Rivera refused.

They paid him his fee, barred him from the site, and hid the work behind a massive drape. (The mural's only extant photo was taken sub-rosa by his female assistant, who hid a camera in her bosom. The camera was amply hidden—thanks I suppose to Rivera's legendary appetite for beauty in all its forms.) One midnight in February, workmen demolished the mural with axes, chipping it from the wall and smashing it to powder.

More recently, in February 2003, when Colin Powell gave a press conference at the United Nations, a blue curtain was draped over a tapestry copy (donated by the Rockefellers!) of Pablo Picasso's "Guernica" so that it wouldn't be visible on screen. The 20th century's famous emblem against war was too inauspicious a backdrop when the US secretary of state argued for the invasion of Iraq. (The official line however was that the TV crew worried that Picasso's wild figures cluttered the view—as indeed it would have.)

"Guernica" commemorates that sad afternoon in 1937 when the German Luftwaffe bombed the ancient Basque town in northern Spain, "the first intentional, large-scale attack against [civilians] in modern warfare." Picasso would later refuse to allow his work to be returned to Spain until, he said, Generalissimo Franco restored "public liberties and democratic institutions." "Guernica" returned to Spain only in 1981 after Franco's death, and on display at Madrid's Museo Reina Sofía (where my wife and I, mere lawyers both, expected the full-scale mural to be dramatic like Juan Luna's "Spolarium"; and instead we remained perplexed by the abstract maze).

The National Press Club apparently thinks that just because it paid for the mural, it has the power to alter it as it wishes. The NPC must realize that ownership of the thing does not mean ownership of the copyright. Granting that the work was commissioned by the NPC for P910,000 and assuming that there was no other agreement, ownership of the thing itself would belong to the NPC but copyright remains with the artists. The ownership of the NPC is limited to the physical thing, which it may sell like any other property—but only the artists, as copyright owners, have the right to transform their art work. The owner may only keep the work "as is." Transforming it is an exclusive "economic right" of the artist.

In addition, the artist has "moral rights" to maintain the integrity of his work and oppose "any distortion, mutilation or other modification of ... his work ... prejudicial to his honor or reputation." Indeed, moral rights may not be waived entirely, especially if the effect is "to use the name of the author with respect to a work he did not create." The NPC may be liable for damages, criminal penalties and fines for the infringement of their intellectual property rights.

I have read itemized descriptions of the mural's defacement, all of them preposterous. The central depiction of news about Arroyo's anti-terror law was replaced by the picture of a bird-monster in a cage. The headline "Press Freedom Fighter's Son Abducted" (referring to Jonas Burgos) was replaced with the limp and lethargic "Press Freedom Fight is On." Andres Bonifacio's arm-tattoo with the Katipunan's symbol in Alibata was replaced with Cupid's arrow piercing a heart.

They did a makeover on the hair-do of two fellow INQUIRER columnists, Randy David and Juan Mercado, who now join Lenin in the select iconography of rebellion, of dreamers who set out to change the world. In the image of a taxicab, the alterations blurred the car plate ZTE-200 (alluding to the ZTE scandal and the attempted bribe of P200 million to a Cabinet official) and cab number EO464 (alluding to the gag order on Cabinet officials called to testify before the Senate). Finally, the name of a photocopy shop, "Ang Bayan" (the Filipino communists' version of Pravda), was changed to "Ang Bayani." The painting was sanitized in time for its unveiling by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Oct. 26.

Picasso said: "What do you think an artist is? An imbecile who has only eyes, if he is a painter, or ears if he is a musician, or a lyre in every chamber of his heart if he is a poet ...? Far from it: ... he is also a political being, constantly aware of the heartbreaking, passionate, or delightful things that happen in the world .... How could it be possible ... with a cool indifference to detach yourself from the very life which they bring to you so abundantly? No, painting is not done to decorate apartments. It is an instrument of war."

Who's afraid of state censorship when the real enemy is self-censorship? It is the censor within that is most fearsome. It is on duty 24/7. It knows your deepest fears and anxieties. It tails and spies on you ceaselessly. It gnaws at your innards and makes you "die a thousand times before [your] death."

The professional organization of journalists tinkers with art to toady up to a sitting president, and its best explanation is, "We paid for it, we own it." I had expected better arguments from the purveyors of the nation's truth, more than just a naked claim of proprietary power. It speaks volumes about how they think.

Distorting the mural shows their high regard for power. Justifying it with money shows their low regard for their craft as writers.

Malacañang's clumsy liars

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

MALACAÑANG ACKNOWLEDGED FOR THE first time on Wednesday that the money distributed to congressmen in the Palace last Oct. 11, after a breakfast meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo, came from her party, Kampi.

The admission came after 28 days, during which the President maintained a glacial silence, pretending she had no knowledge about the source of the estimated P120 million handout (according to some congressmen, it ranged from P200,000 to P500,000 apiece) and staying above the fray as if to say that it is beneath the dignity of her office to dirty her hands with money distributed to party hacks to ensure her political survival.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Kampi chair, stated in a press conference that he was informed that Kampi was the source of the fund, but he was not happy about the news because "I'm last to know about that." But he came to the rescue of the President, saying: "I really seriously doubt whether the President had any clue." But it was the same Puno who earlier was quick to claim the money came from Speaker Jose de Venecia, who dispatched the claim with a quick denial.

Puno's admission was the latest smokescreen thrown around the President to shield her from being directly linked to the cash handout, widely believed as an attempt by the Palace to bribe congressmen to vote down a fresh impeachment complaint against the President, or to prevent its endorsement by the House committee on justice to the full House for a vote prior the transmission of the complaint to the Senate for trial.

Puno's smokescreen appeared to have failed to cover up the money trail leading up to the presidential doorsteps. On the contrary, the more Palace officials lied through their teeth to throw off the track questions about the source of the fund, the more contradictions appeared and the more blatant the lies became. Palace smokescreen artists have not only turned out to be clumsy liars; they also have undermined their own credibility as well as that of the President.

Puno made the admission after Deputy Speaker Amelita Villarosa, regional head of Kampi, confirmed the claim of Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante Jr. that she was the source of the P500,000 he received in the Palace on Oct. 11. Villarosa said the cash gifts were a "party initiative (taken) without the knowledge of the President," but she passed on the blame to Rep. Luis Villafuerte, Kampi president. She said Villafuerte and Puno knew about the disbursement but did not know it would be distributed in Malacañang.

Asked about the source of Kampi funds, Puno said, "Ask Girlie Villarosa (Kampi secretary) and Abet Garcia, (Kampi treasurer)."

The admission of Kampi's role in the payoff has pushed party officials to passing the buck among themselves in the effort to cover up the President's involvement. It has also intensified questions about the sources of Kampi funds and how affluent the party chest is. Another Kampi executive committee member, Sorsogon Rep. Jose Solis, cast doubt on Kampi's financial status. He said Kampi had a relatively small budget that it could not extend generous financial support to its congressional allies. He said party funds came from the P5,000 monthly contribution of its members, and the party coffers probably held only P700,000. And yet, Villarosa admitted that Kampi (why not Lakas-CMD, the dominant and more cash affluent partner of the majority coalition in the House?), gave Representative Abante of Manila, a member of Lakas-CMD, P500,000. Her lame explanation was that Kampi provided financial assistance on a case-to-case basis regardless of party affiliation, including opposition members.

In the case of Abante, her tall tale is that she gave Abante money because he has a flock ministry and was leaving for Saudi Arabia at the time. Abante said he was surprised to receive the money from Kampi since he was a member of Lakas. From Villarosa's revelation, Kampi appears to be a cash cow. This gives rise to more questions about whom it is milking for its funding. Villarosa said there was nothing irregular about the doles and that it couldn't be investigated because the money was "private fund" and, therefore, not subject to audit by the Commission on Audit. She said "that is party fund" and "we're not supposed to be audited for that." Her claim that party funds are private funds can be challenged; political parties can also be held accountable for their sources of funds—for the sake of transparency in their handling of funds used for public purposes, after all, political parties are also public institutions.

Villarosa angered members of the opposition when she said some opposition congressmen had sought assistance from Kampi, for a trip to China. Minority Leader Ronaldo Zamora demanded that Villarosa identify the opposition members who traveled to China recently and who received money from the deputy speaker.

If opposition members and non-Kampi members go to Kampi for money, the obvious explanation is that they know where the money is. Kampi is the President's own party and Lakas cannot be as generous as Kampi; and Speaker Jose de Venecia has problems with the President; at this point, he would not serve as cashier in the disbursement of funds drawn on his pork barrel to subsidize Malacañang's effort to depose him.

There's a limit to the lies that the administration can fabricate to extricate the President from the hole she has dug for herself, not only in the payoff scandal but also in several other corruption scandals. There's a limit to the public's tolerance to take lies.

Not just a transaction

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN 1933, WRITES NATIONAL MUSEUM CONsultant John Silva, Mexican muralist Diego Rivera was commissioned by Nelson Rockefeller to do a mural for the lobby of the RCA Building at New York's Rockefeller Center. "Rivera, a leftist, was well known for his grand murals replete with sinewy laborers in all forms of working poses," writes Silva. "He had just finished a large scale mural with a similar theme for the Detroit Museum of Art sponsored by the Ford Motor Company, and despite the bias for proletarian vistas, the liberal, art-loving Rockefellers decided their center should have a Rivera mural too."

But one feature of Rivera's design for the mural disturbed the wealthy businessman/politician: The artist had added a portrait of Lenin in the mural. "Rockefeller confronted the artist demanding he remove the offending Lenin," Silva recalls. "Rivera, already paid for the mural, refused, was summarily fired, and the mural destroyed. Rivera would have his revenge by recreating the same mural back in Mexico with Lenin in his glory and the patriarch John D. Rockefeller inserted elsewhere drinking martini at the expense of the toiling masses."

The officers of the National Press Club (perhaps I should have added a question mark in parentheses, as Neal Cruz did, to emphasize the tenuous claim to legitimacy of the current officers) were not so brazen as to destroy the "press freedom" mural they recently commissioned from the Neo-Angono Artists Collective. But what they did to the finished mural was just as offensive and insulting to the artists. Perhaps the artists would have preferred that their mural had been destroyed completely, giving them the chance to re-create it in another setting.

Silva, who knows his art and history, declares that "Paintings, particularly murals, if well done, have changed people, norms, and societies. We only need to recall Juan Luna's 'Spoliarium' which would influence a medical student named Jose Rizal to alter his career and write his devastating anti-colonial novels and become our national hero.

"Paintings often reflect the times and if the Neo-Angono mural reflects the current state of Philippine affairs and the unpopularity of the current President, so be it. One would shudder to think if the National Press Club lived in the 19th century and found the 'Spoliarium' offensive to the Spanish monarchy."

* * *

THE HULLABALOO over the altered mural is all about freedom of expression and artistic integrity. It is not just a simple buyer-supplier arrangement, and to bring up the matter of "ingratitude" is to misread the artists' motivations.

Writes Silva: "The cavalier and contemptible manner by which the National Press Club blithely desecrated a work of art is evidence enough that these so-called journalists haven't a clue about freedom of expression. In a free society, contending thoughts, contending works of art are allowed and respected despite its inherent inclinations and viewpoints. The National Press Club's actions has just put their profession to ridicule, painted (its members) as cowards, and now insinuates itself as being in-the-pay of the powerful. Fellow journalists who abide in the freedom of expression should call for the immediate dismissal of the club officers."

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), which was itself "edited out" of the NPC mural, weighs in with its own views on the incident. "The alterations on the mural were not only an aesthetic outrage, they constituted censorship, an act that should have been anathema to any media organization worth its salt, and made worse by the fact that the message that was censored was one against censorship itself," the NUJP statement says.

The explanations of the Club's officers, it continues, "have only served to bolster suspicions that the defacing of the press freedom mural was meant to please the guest of honor at its unveiling, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo."

The journalists' union poses several questions to both the NPC officers and membership, and the entire journalistic community:

"When you say the NPC must be 'apolitical,' isn't this denying the historical fact that the freedom to write the truth was won through political struggles that included media and journalists? That during times of intense political crisis, journalists have taken up the cudgels and fought for the freedom to report the truth?

"When you erased the statement of the International Federation of Journalists on the dangers the antiterrorism law posed to press freedom, the alibata K—a fighting symbol—from the arm of a revolutionary leader, or the NUJP from the banners of protesting media organizations; or when you changed the headline on the abduction of Joe Burgos' son and the faces of Randy David and Juan Mercado, was the outcome a more accurate picture of press freedom in the country?"

* * *

WITH SADNESS, says the NUJP, they declare:

"Ordering the alterations is akin to rewriting a critical yet accurate report to avoid incurring the ire of the powers-that-be or appease a patron. And we, in the media community, know by what word such an act is known by. It is definitely not truth or ethics."

By way of personal comment, I myself have not been a member of the NPC for some years now, due to disgust over the way elections were being manipulated, and an even more visceral disgust at the shabby and rundown conditions of the club. I once thought I could go through my life as a Filipino journalist without paying the NPC any attention, but this incident only shows that we allow "outsiders" to wear the mantle of press freedom at the expense of the dignity of our profession, and the denial of our own history of struggle and pushing the envelope for all freedoms.

Discordant prophets

COMMENTARY

Bishop Francisco F. Claver, S.J
John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues

THREE BISHOPS REPEATING THEIR CALL FOR the President to step down. Eighteen bishops from Mindanao saying no; 10 more from Northern Luzon joining them, saying no too. Such a public show of discord among Catholic bishops is quite unprecedented. There was division among us back in the '70s on how to respond to the imposition of martial law, but the division was kept pretty much en famille, our differences worked out gradually and openly within the Conference, ending with near unanimity in our Statement on the Snap Elections of 1986.

So what should we make of the new development? Simple, I think. It tells us that we live in a free country—and our Churchmen are very much part of it! Or could it be that we are an extremely politicized people and our bishops are just as politicized?

Asking that question, I can't help going back over the history of the CBCP's involvement in the country's politics. From its formation in 1945, it has always been deeply involved. It had to be. The moral bankruptcy of our politics that Archbishop Angel Lagdameo had occasion to lament recently is nothing new. It might be at its worst now, one can argue. But the fact itself? It dates way back to our very beginning as an independent nation. Even earlier, to the days when petty datus held sway over our (even then) heavily factionalized tribal societies. Petty datus—bishops included?—strutting importantly all over the political landscape, that is what we still have.

A cursory look at CBCP pastoral letters and statements between 1945 and 2005 will show how the vast majority of their pronouncements have been on political and social problems. I counted them: 138 out of a total of 198—almost 70 percent. And their message from year to year has been the same. That fact tells us nothing much has changed. Corruption in public life, election anomalies, unremitting bickering, mudslinging, posturing among politicians, vendettas, murders even—that was then. It still is now. As our farmers in Bukidnon used to say of Marcos' New Society and its pretensions to progress, "*mao guihapon*—it's still the same (old society)."

But back to the recent show of episcopal discord. I would like to think that a sentiment, expressed among us bishops the other year when we were discussing the question of the impeachment of the President, is still that of the whole Conference—including those who are talking at cross-purposes today. And that sentiment? We bishops are not king-makers; we do not decide who is to rule the country. It's a principle the bishops try to follow, despite strong temptations to the contrary, especially during election. But by the same token, if they are not king-makers, neither are they "king-keepers," or whatever we call those who prop up presidents and political leaders and help keep them in power no matter how disastrous they are for the country.

The real king-makers and -keepers, come to think of it, cannot but be the people. I guess the problem with bishops is that they are people too! So on this particular question of removing incumbent political leaders, they should be part of the people—as at Edsa in 1986—not acting apart from them, and most certainly not presuming to lead in all areas of their life, the political included.

Is that too simple a solution to the quandary of bishops about when or how to act as Churchmen or as simple citizens like everybody else? I don't know what the answer to that question is, or whether there is any one, real answer, except what we tell our parishioners all the time: reflect, discern, ask yourself seriously what your faith tells you in conscience to do. I suppose we can presume our discordant bishops have done exactly that, even if the fruits of their discernment are at odds.

Still, the question nags. But however one answers it, there is something very clear about the bishops' role in the realm of politics and that is to keep reminding people there is a moral dimension to politics. This duty, I believe, the Philippine bishops as a Conference have been quite good at, if all those statements we've been grinding out is any proof.

At that meeting when we reminded ourselves that it wasn't part of our job description to be king-makers, we did what I just said. We asked in the statement we issued then that all that was found morally execrable about the impeachment process be attended to by every actor in it. And this meant not only the impeachment seekers but the target of impeachment as well. We decried what seemed to be the main motive of many of those leading the effort: to grab power for themselves. But we also asked the President herself to look seriously into her part in the causes of the turmoil that was behind the effort to impeach her.

The latest point of division among bishops has been the granting of executive clemency to Mr. Estrada. Again, as all things seem to be with the President, it was pure politics—hence most divisive, even of bishops. But divided or not, there is one thing the bishops should all be united on: the matter of restitution of the millions stolen. I had occasion recently to remind a member of government that the pardon may be all meant to bring unity and reconciliation to the nation (I think the opposite has happened), but God himself cannot pardon a sinner if guilt is not admitted, sorrow not shown for sin, and in matters of thievery, restitution not made of stolen goods.

On the question of restitution then, there should be no discord whatsoever among our most reverend episcopal prophets.

Fighting the 'Big C'

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THERE'S EVEN A LOCAL MAGAZINE NOW DEVOTED TO the "Big C"—cancer. The Department of Health's latest Philippine Health Statistics yearbook, which is for the year 2003, reports nearly 40,000 deaths from cancer, making it the third leading cause of death in the country. I'm going to give you some rounded-off mortality figures so you have an idea of the most common cancers: trachea, bronchus and lungs (7,000) the breast (about 4,000), colon (2,000), lips, oral cavity and pharynx (1,900), stomach (1,500), prostate (1,400), bone (1,300), uterus (1,100) and cervix (1,000). About 11,000 deaths are listed as being of "unspecified sites," usually referring to cancers that have spread from a primary site.

Can we do anything? We rightly associate cancers with smoking; and certainly, stricter tobacco control will go a long way to reducing cancers but a publication from the World Cancer Research Fund and the American Cancer Research Institute, launched last Nov. 1, says there are many other preventive measures we need to look at. The report was produced by a large international panel of experts who reviewed a large number of scientific reports.

The experts are cautious, emphasizing that they make no claims about completely eliminating the risks for cancer with lifestyle changes, and acknowledging that the risks for cancer are "also modified by social, cultural, economic and ecological factors" that have to be dealt with at the public policy level. Nevertheless, the experts feel much can be done too at the individual and family levels.

The 10 lifestyle changes recommended by the experts seem fairly simple. But when you go through them, you'll see it's going to be an uphill battle in the Philippines because the recommendations go so much against deeply-ingrained cultural practices.

Diet, exercise

Let's look now at the recommendations, which reflect the title of the report: "Food, Nutrition, Physical Activity, and the Prevention of Cancer: A Global Perspective."

First, keep lean. There is strong evidence now that obesity does increase the risks for some cancers. The recommendation is for a Body Mass Index (BMI) of between 21 and 23. You can calculate your BMI by dividing your body weight by the square of your height. Or take the easy way out and visit www.nhlbisupport.com/bmi where you enter your height and weight for an instant calculation of your BMI, and an interpretation.

Second, be physically active. Again, this relates to keeping your weight down. Brisk walking for at least 30 minutes each day is a good start, with a gradual increase in physical activities while limiting sedentary habits like watching TV. I worry, given the way we loath exercise and walking. Those tricycle drivers will outlive all of us yet if they weren't inhaling all the vehicular emissions and the smoke from their cigarettes.

Third, limit consumption of foods and drinks that promote weight gain. This is going to be a herculean challenge for Filipinos, with our love of sugary drinks and fast foods. Sugary drinks provide energy, but they are often not enough to satiate your thirst; in fact, because of the sugar, you tend to overconsume the drinks and take in even more sugar. Fast foods, on the other hand, are "energy-dense," using too much oils, fats and sugars which contribute to obesity.

Fourth, eat mostly foods of plant origin. The recommendation is to eat at least five portions of a variety of non-starchy vegetables and fruits every day, together with cereals and pulses (beans) with every meal. Apparently, these foods protect against certain cancers. The experts don't recommend starchy plants (oops, there goes kamote or sweet potato and cassava) but recognize these are staple foods in many cultures.

Fifth, and this is the converse of the previous recommendation: limit intake of red meat and avoid processed meats, both of which are "convincing or probable causes of some cancers," especially those of the colon and rectum. By "processed," they mean mainly those which use nitrates, again definitely known to be cancer-causing. There goes some of our Filipino favorites: tocino, tapa, hot dogs.

Sixth, limit alcoholic drinks. They don't say you have to give up completely, but suggest limiting consumption to no more than two drinks a day for men and one drink a day for women. The panel does recognize that modest amounts of alcoholic drinks actually protect against coronary heart disease.

Seventh, limit consumption of salt, including salt-preserved foods. This is a tough one for Southeast Asians, with our love for salty foods, but the experts say salt and salt-preserved foods are probably a cause of stomach cancer. Cantonese salted fish is out, with links to nasopharyngeal cancer, but the report says other fish products have not been linked to cancer. Nevertheless, it's still wise to cut down since the salt in our dried fish still contributes to high blood pressure.

This seventh recommendation has a second part: avoiding foods prepared from cereals or beans that mold easily. The reason for this recommendation is that the molds contain aflatoxins, which increase risks for liver cancer. In our context, we'll just have to be more careful with soya bean products like *tokwa*. Also be careful about peanuts and peanut butter. Try to buy all these products fresh, and consume them soon after purchase.

Eighth, the experts' language is quite direct: dietary supplements are not recommended for cancer prevention. They mean all those "natural" preparations offering vitamins and minerals that supposedly reduce the risks for cancer. The experts say you're better off getting them from fresh food. The experts recognize sometimes supplements are needed, such as folic acid for women who are or might become pregnant.

Good food, best food

The report ends with two intriguing recommendations. One—and this will please Unicef—is exclusive breastfeeding for infants, for up to six months. Breastfeeding reduces the risk of breast cancer for mothers, while bringing a host of benefits to the child. The last recommendation is specific for cancer survivors, who are reminded that they still need to watch their diets and to exercise, if they are to stay cancer-free, or prevent an existing cancer from further spreading to other parts of the body.

I'd recommend reading the entire report, downloadable for free from dietandcancerreport.org. It runs more than 500 pages, but it's well worth the read, with a wealth of information about the benefits of good diet and nutrition in terms of preventing all kinds of illnesses, from heart disease to dental caries. It's time we change our tastes. Salty and sweet, which we think of as "sarap" (delicious) may have to give way to good, as in healthy, foods. It's all in the mind: with time, you'll find that foods that aren't drowning in fats and salts and sugars aren't just healthier, but do taste so much better.

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The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**, through its *Corporate Budget for 2008* intends to apply the sum of *Twenty Million Three Hundred Forty Five Thousand and One Hundred Fifty Pesos (P 20,345,150.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Integrated Grains Handling & Trucking Services for NFA Region VII.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Integrated Grains Handling & Trucking Services for NFA Region VII. Delivery of the GOODS is required upon receipt of Notice to Proceed until December 31, 2008, or upon completion of the services, whichever is applicable. The grains handling and trucking services comprise the following:

Lot #	Province/Route	Handling Volume (50 kgs)	Trucking Volume (50 kgs)	ABC (Pesos)	Bidding Docs. Fee
1.	**Bohol**	1,780,000	400,000	7,295,000.00	20,000.00
	Tagbilaran Port to Whse	1,260,000	300,000		
	Tapal Port to FSC Ubay	520,000	100,000		
2.	**Cebu**	748,000		1,870,000.00	5,000.00
	Badian	352,000			
	Bogo	396,000			
3.	**Cebu**	914,000	170,000	3,612,000.00	10,000.00
	Sta. Fe Port to Whse.	482,000	90,000		
	Poro Port to Whse.	432,000	80,000		
4.	**Negros Oriental**	1,796,000	395,000	7,568,150.00	20,000.00
	Dumaguete Port to Whse.	1,080,000	255,000		
	Dumaguete to Guihulngan	425,000	85,000		
5.	**Siquijor**				
	Larena Port to Whse.	291,000	55,000		
	TOTAL			20,345,150.00	

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidders must have a Largest Single Contract that is completed and accomplished within a twelve month period between 2004 up to the present which is similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid and the value thereof must be at least 50% of the ABC. Bids in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect the Bidding Documents at *NFA, Banilad, Cebu City* starting November 09, 2007 to November 19, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as shown in the table above. The method of payment will be in cash.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***November 20, 2007 @ 2:00 PM*** at *NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City.* Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on *December 03, 2007 not later than 2:00 PM.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid in the following form or any combination thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be bid
Cash /Cashier's/Managers Check	One Percent (1%)
GSIS Surety Bond marked "Callable on Demand"	Two & a Half Percent (2.5%)
Notarized Bank Guarantee	One & a Half Percent (1.5%)

Bid opening shall be on ***December 03, 2007 @ 2:00 PM*** *at NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr, Banilad, Cebu City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bidding. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept bid most advantageous to the government or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
RAUL B. CHONG
Banilad, Cebu City
Tel No. 032-232-1939
email address : nfaro7@cvis.net.ph
Fax no. 032-233-6095
website : www.nfacebu.net.ph

(Sgd.) RAUL B. CHONG
RBAC Chairman/ARD

(PDI – November 9, 2007)

More for the convicted than for the innocent

STATE PROSECUTOR DENNIS VILLA-Ignacio should not be the only one losing sleep over Joseph "Erap" Estrada's pardon. We should also be alarmed by President Macapagal-Arroyo's habit of setting free convicted criminals and persecuting innocent civilians. These moves are clearly part of the President's plan to preserve and consolidate her power.

Every year, Ms Arroyo tries to grant clemency to former congressman and child-rapist Romeo Jalosjos—the latest, after the May 2007 elections, in gratitude for his "excellent work" in ensuring the triumph of the administration's senatorial candidates in his province in that political exercise.

Last year, she allowed Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith, convicted rapist of "Nicole," to virtually go scot-free by turning him over to the custody of the US government because she deemed it a political suicide to earn the ire of her US masters.

Meanwhile, Ms Arroyo allows and encourages the illegal arrest and continued detention of innocent civilians. One such case is that of 63-year-old Angelina "Angie" Ipong, who was illegally arrested last March 2005. Very much unlike Erap, Angie dedicated three decades of her life serving the peasants and indigenous people. She has been in jail for three years now for trumped-up criminal charges. She is among the 22 women political prisoners arrested under the Arroyo administration.

With Erap's pardon, Ms Arroyo is attempting to paint her administration and herself a picture of magnanimity and mercy. Nothing, however, can be farther from the truth.

—EMMI DE JESUS,
secretary general,
Gabriela,
35 Scout Delgado St.,
Barangay Laging Handa, Quezon City

The Philippines is dying, goodbye!

THE PARDON RECENTLY GIVEN TO Joseph Estrada made me realize that it is time to finally give up. My beloved Philippines, like it was from the very beginning, does not belong to the common man but to a selected few.

I've seen the signs but I refused to see them because "hope" blinded me. I had always thought there was a chance, after all our Republic is considered young. But now I must accept it, I give up.

From Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo's time up to the present, it has always been the few elite who lord it over and make a mockery of the law and justice. We Filipinos never learn our history. We tend to forget easily out of comfort and fear. We never even had the slightest sense of integrity. And in the process, we have lost our soul. And so as a common man, I have given up.

Goodbye, my beloved Philippines! May you rest in peace soon enough rather than continue to rot slowly.

—RANEL SOLIS,
ranelsolis@yahoo.com

Impunity rears ugly head in Digos City

THE NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNalists of the Philippines condemns in the strongest terms the attempt on the lives of two volunteer radio announcers in Digos City last Oct. 25.

Reports said Marlan Malnegro and Ruben Oliverio had just finished their morning program on Radio Ukay and were riding tandem on a motorcycle when the two attackers, on another motorcycle, drove up. One of the suspects drew a handgun and fired but missed. He tried to fire again but fortunately his gun jammed.

While we have yet to ascertain the motive for the attack, this incident is nevertheless another clear example of the culture of impunity nurtured by official apathy and inaction that have emboldened those who wish to silence a critical press.

Again and again, government has vowed to put an end to media killings and solve the murders of our colleagues. Again and again, these vows have proven to be lip service.

This time, we hope our demand for a swift resolution to this case will not, as have so many of our calls in the past, fall on deaf ears.

—JOE TORRES JR.,
chair, National Union of Journalists of the Philippines,
105-A Scout Castor St.,
Quezon City

After expelling Mercado, press club 'defaces' him

IN THEIR REPORT ON THE NATIONAL PRESS Club's tampered mural (INQUIRER, 11/4/07), TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac wrote: "A beard and a moustache were painted on the face of the man (depicted as columnist Juan Mercado) selling quail eggs and *balut* and the change of the hair color from white to black."

Shortly after President Ferdinand Marcos imposed martial law, the NPC officers then expelled all journalists and press club members who were arrested and detained under Proclamation 1081.

It has been 35 years since we were booted out of the NPC. In all that time, I've never bothered to visit the NPC. Nor did I grow "a beard and a moustache."

But now this doctored mural beckons one to pop into the NPC again, if only to determine if W.B. Yeats was right about "daring to dream one would comb grey hair."

—JUAN L. MERCADO,
Cebu City

'Landmark indiscretion'

I JOIN THE THOUSANDS OF RESPONSIBLE citizens who hate the decision of President Macapagal-Arroyo to give Joseph Estrada pardon. The constitutional power of the president to grant pardon should not be abused.

In granting pardon to Estrada, GMA not only abused this presidential prerogative, she suppressed justice. Estrada's conviction by the Sandiganbayan was a landmark decision. GMA's grant of pardon to Estrada was a landmark "indiscretion."

—EMMA A. REQUILME,
emma_sds@yahoo.com

NFA in war vs hunger

WE WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON THE column titled "A new hunger record" by Mahar Mangahas. (INQUIRER, 10/6/07)

Mangahas, a former rice economist, stated that "the abolition of the age-old legal monopoly of the National Food Authority on international trade in rice and corn would be an excellent move towards winning the war on hunger." This view does not hold water. Hunger is the product of the present, window-dressed economy. Hunger is the result of poverty; it is not the offshoot of the programs of the NFA. How can Filipino households afford to buy food when the majority of them are jobless or subsist on incomes below the living-wage level?

With regard to the NFA's monopoly on international trade, permit me to say that the NFA is gearing toward a free market regime by implementing such programs as Farmers as Importers (FAI) and Institutionalized Farmers As Distributors (IFAD), which empower us, farmers, as rice importers and distributors, by giving us the knowledge and skills in rice trading business. The NFA imports only during the lean months to bridge the supply-demand gap and to stabilize the supply and prices of rice in the market. It does not follow that without the NFA importing rice "Filipino consumers could take advantage of the lowest price for imported rice and corn at any time."

To recall, in 1995, the NFA, under former NFA Administrator Romeo David, reneged on its mandate by transforming the agency into a service corporation. And look what happened? A major rice crisis occurred with the Filipino consumers and farmers paying a high price for their staple food. As always the NFA is mandated to make rice accessible, affordable and readily available to the Filipino consumers.

The answer to the problem of hunger is not the abolition of the NFA, it is the strengthening and development of the rice industry.

—LORENZO G. PROVIDO,
chair, Provincial Farmers
Action Council, Iloilo

FEDERALISM
PROPOSALS NOW?

The **FEDERALIST FORUM OF THE PHILIPPINES (FFP)** calls on the Administration to desist, at this time, from initiating any study on a shift to Federalism. Instead the Administration would do well to use all its energy and resources to answering serious questions and allegations of corruption involving the National Broadband Network (NBN) project and the alleged wholesale bribery of Congressmen and Local Government Officials.

While the **FEDERALIST FORUM OF THE PHILIPPINES** truly believes that only a Federal Philippines will unleash the potential of the composite 'nations' that make up our country, any initiative must come from a source without tainted motives. The **FEDERALIST FORUM OF THE PHILIPPINES** believes that the Federalism movement is too important to be merely used as a ploy for temporarily diverting national attention. We lament the mangling of Federalism initiatives that occurred under the Administration-created Constitutional Commission.

Sadly, the very issues of corruption on a massive scale and patronizing of congressmen and local executives are the very symptoms of a **dysfunctional unitary system** that contemptuously uses money to perpetuate the ruling elite. Development agendas so badly needed by our desperate Filipinos who, by the millions, flock to foreign countries that are Federal, are poorly served by the elite politics of our over-centralized, patronage-based politcal system. The **FEDERALIST FORUM OF THE PHILIPPINES** believes that the movement towards Federalism must be, and can only be credibly led by Civil Society groups and Filipino-loving individuals without a personal political agenda. Yes, we welcome sincere support from Political Parties, true statement and Filipino-loving individuals. We denounce efforts to use Federalism for short-term political maneuvering.

www.filipinofederalistforum.net

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Boy, 6, completes 10-km Cebu swim

By Jolene R. Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—SIX-YEAR-OLD WONDER BOY JUSTIN Junio on Thursday completed his objective of swimming the entire 10-km stretch of the Hilutungan Channel off Mactan Island in Cebu, establishing what could be a world record.

Justin finished the swim in 3 hours, 46 minutes and 10 seconds, together with coach Air Force Master Sgt. Jairulla Jaitulla and co-coach Air Force 1st Class Benzon Kasim.

Except for a superficial sting in his left ear from contact with jellyfish, Justin appeared healthy and fit.

First request

As soon as he reached the seashore of Tambuli Beach Resort on Mactan Island, Justin, who was met by his mother Belina Valentina, immediately asked for a biscuit.

Justin, together with his father retired Air Force Col. Jose Florencio Junio, Jaitulla, Kasim and two Navy personnel, took off from the resort for Hilutungan Island on board a Navy rubber boat at 5:45 a.m.

At exactly 6:58 a.m., Justin, with his coaches, jumped from a floating cottage, 50 meters from the Hilutungan Island shore and began the journey back to the resort, stopping only for a minute to drink bottled water, which was given to him by standby rescue teams from the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Air Force 505 rescue team on board rubber boats.

Cooperative weather

The weather cooperated and the channel's usual strong waves were absent.

Dressed in his made-to-order fast skin competitive suit, Justin was playful in the waters using two strokes: Free style and breaststroke. When the jellyfish came his way, Justin had to stay afloat using the swimming style dog paddle for about a kilometer. He was also handed petroleum jelly to place on his face to avoid jellyfish stings. He even told his coach to relax, when the latter told him to follow instructions and not go against the current.

When he reached the seashore of Tambuli Beach Resort, spectators including resort clients and tourists cheered him. The Air Force medical team injected Justin with an antiallergy fluid after he got dressed.

Strong kid

Florentino de la Paz, Emergency Rescue Unit Foundation (Eruf) paramedic, said Justin's vital signs were normal when they checked him after his swim.

"He's an extraordinary child. We've been checking him for two months and he has not been ill, not even a single cold," De la Paz said.

When asked by INQUIRER what he wants to do next, Justin said he would like to compete in the Olympics and challenge the record of Braxton Bilbrey, the 7 year old American boy who swam from Alcatraz Island to San Francisco City in California, a distance of 1.4 miles, in 42 minutes in May last year.

Justin's mother said her son has been enrolled in an undisclosed school in Cebu City. She added that her son loves school but prefers swimming more.

"He's already in Grade 1 and he goes there for socialization. He also learned to speak a little Cebuano," Mrs. Junio said.

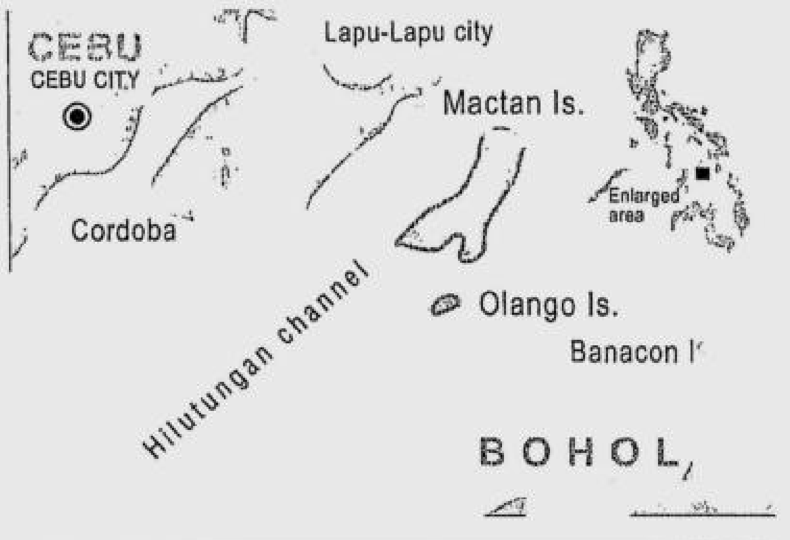
Mama's boy

As the youngest among four siblings, Justin is a mama's boy, noted his 17-year-old sister Johanna.

Johanna described her brother as very energetic and hyperactive. The Junio family is temporarily residing in Cebu.

Colonel Junio said his son practiced for several months before embarking on the Hilutungan challenge.

The Hilutungan swim is big achievement of Justin who is the youngest and only boy who crossed the channel from Hilutungan Island, he added.



Mayor's boycott won't stop Panlilio mobile services

ARAYAT, PAMPANGA—THE PROVINCIAL government delivered services on wheels here on Thursday even as this town's mayor reportedly ordered municipal employees to boycott the mobile services program of Gov. Eddie Panlilio.

Pamisaupan (Helping One Another), the governor's way of bringing the government closer to the people, was instead held at the San Isidro Poblador Parish in Barangay Camba here.

The parish priest, Nestor Tayag, allowed use of the church, multi-purpose hall and grounds as venues when Mayor Luisito Espino declined to host the event, Panlilio said.

Espino did not reply to calls made by the INQUIRER to his mobile phone.

Municipal employees alerted capitol officials about the supposed boycott ordered by Espino.

Eight of 30 barangay captains came nevertheless, with Mapalad village chief Nazario Vinuya saying that the mayor did not order them to stay away from the event.

The provincial government gave anti-rabies shots to dogs and cats, information materials on bird flu, vegetable seeds; screened applications for small loans; provided relief goods, medicines and legal services; held medical and dental missions for some 5,000 residents, according to Lucia Gutierrez, provincial social welfare officer.

The mobile library came to town while help desks for overseas workers and farmers were opened for legal and technology advice. Over 200 women availed themselves of pap smear tests.

At the church where Panlilio spoke to some 700 people, many raised their hands when he asked how many of them had not gone to the provincial capitol for years.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

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Eastern Samar is one of best provinces

BRYAN M. AZURA

The province of Eastern Samar made it to the list as one of the 30 best performing provinces in the entire country based on the latest provincial statistics made available by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

In a letter, Romulo Virola, NSCB Secretary General, congratulated Governor Ben P. Evardone as Eastern Samar is among the 30 best provinces in the Philippines based on the Provincial Good Governance Index computed by the NSCB.

Prior to the administration of Evardone, the province belonged to the 20 poorest provinces in the country or popularly called the "Club 20."

Governor Evardone stressed that the hard work his administration is putting forth is paying off as the province did not just graduate from the Club 20 but is now among the top 30 provinces.

"It's so consoling to know that the economic reforms we are applying in the province are gaining great outcomes as shown in the results of the survey," Evardone said.

Eastern Samar was included in the top list for its success in reducing poverty incidence in the province.

The provinces that fared well in reducing poverty incidence are Ifugao, Bohol, Camiguin, Capiz, Tawi-tawi, Lana del Sur, North Cotabato, Romblon, Sulu and Tarlac.

Also included in the list are Catanduanes, Zambales, Negros Occidental, Apayao, Cebu, La Union, South Cotabato, Sorsogon and Ilocos Sur.

In an article by Virola posted in NSCB's website, he noted that 6 provinces in the top ten lists were once in the ranks of poorest provinces in year 2000. Eastern Samar is one of the provinces that made a big leap from the poorest to the best provinces in the country.

Governor Evardone emphasized that the battle against poverty will not end with the statistical result.

"Obviously, marks of scarcity in the province are still visible and we will continue to strive to totally pluck out the Eastern Samareños from poverty," he said.

"We have high hopes for Eastern Samar in terms of economy," the governor continued.

"Investors are coming in, both local and foreign, as we continue to promote tourism industry in Guiuan to the world and as these will be in place, surely it will make greater economic impact on our province," Evardone said.

Eastern Samar tops DepEd's NAT nationwide

Jenevieve Palma, a Grade 6 pupil of Lawaan Central School in Eastern Samar will be the premier awardee of the provincial government as part of the 42nd founding anniversary celebration of the province today.

Palma topped the National Achievement Test (NAT) administered by the Department of Education this year and has received numerous recognitions, including one which was given by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang, for her exemplary academic achievement.

For another moment, President Arroyo, together with Governor Ben P. Evardone will be handing her a plaque and a cash gift.

2007 NAT second placer Faye Jessa Edgargo who, like Palma, comes from Lawaan Central School will also be an awardee. Other students who will receive recognition from the province are: Kathleen Rose Taniñas, Mariel Baconawa, Joriza Faye Mora, Carmela Mae Bajado, Josnell Manuel Edgargo, Myka Mae Duran and Frances Dominique B. Capones.

Meanwhile, Dr. Niña Villalon, Eastern Samar Schools Division Superintendent will also be receiving an award as she was named by Department of Education as Outstanding Schools Division Superintendent in the national level. The province will also be awarding LGUs that have fared well in various outstanding searches. On the other hand, the Provincial Planning Planning and Development Office will be recognized as well for grabbing the Best Website Provincial Category of the National Computer Center's LGU website competition.

Regina Lopez of the province's HRMO will be recognized also as she was named Most Outstanding Provincial Assistant Head of Human Resources Management of the Philippines. "These people are truly serving as inspirations to our fellow Eastern Samareños," Evardone said in a statement. "They are manifestations that our people are real achievers," he said.

Gov. Evardone calls for true peace in the province

ORAS, EASTERN SAMAR – Eastern Samar Governor Ben P. Evardone emphasized the need for "true" peace to take place in the province during the Peace and Development Forum held recently, this town.

In a speech before an estimated crowd of 1000, Evardone stressed that peace does not just happen when gunfights cease.

"Real peace is when there is no hunger, no fear of school fees during enrollment period, no children crying because the parents could not afford milk and food for them," says Evardone in local dialect. The forum, initiated by the 801st Infantry Brigade, Philippine Army based in Camp Daza, Brgy. Fatima, Hinabangan, Samar, was attended by rebel returnees and residents of villages that were once controlled by the New People's Army (NPA).

Col. Alex Albano, 801st IB Deputy Commander, said that peace and tranquility play a significant role in development. "With this orientation, you have just enlisted yourselves as catalysts for development," Albano said.

Evardone for his part assured KAIBIGAN members that the provincial government will be a partner to them. The province will be providing hand tractors, motorboat engines and shallow tube wells to members on installment basis at 0% interest. "This is our way of helping you start a new life," he said. "We don't just aspire to stop gunfight. We desire to make a true progress," he concluded. **(Media Affairs Office)**

Province's website is region's best

The internet website of the province of Eastern Samar, www.easternsamar.gov.ph, was declared Best Regional Website – Provincial Category during the regional website contest conducted by the National Computer Center of Commission on Information and Communications Technology.

Besting other 5 provinces, Eastern Samar's website was found to be the most accessible and informative site in the internet.

Provincial Planning and Development Officer Henry Afable, representing Governor Ben P. Evardone, received the award last October 18 at Leyte SMED Center in Tacloban City.

Evardone said that the provincial website is a showcase that Eastern Samareños are world-class talents. "We can be at par with world-class experts in terms of information technology through website designing, publishing and maintaining," he said. The internet site features the latest news stories, historic and tourist destinations, provincial profile, investment opportunities and other important information relative to the province of Eastern Samar. Afable, assured the governor that his IT personnel will continue to find ways to improve on the website. Evardone, however, stressed that the website is not just maintained for the sake of contest.

"We will regularly update the site to serve its purpose – to inform people here and around the globe about Eastern Samar and what's going on in the province," he pointed. The site is also a nominee to the National Website Contest for LGUs which will be held on November 23, this year.

"Adjudged as the best in the region, there is no impossibility that our website will emerge winner in the national competition," Evardone said.

GMA visits Eastern Samar today to grace Anti-Poverty Summit

ALICE E. NICART

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The Anti-Poverty Summit will be conducted in time for the province's 42nd Founding Anniversary, November 9, 2007.

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"Celebrates its 42nd Founding Anniversary"

Eastern Samar is one of best provinces

BRYAN M. AZURA

The province of Eastern Samar made it to the list as one of the 30 best performing provinces in the entire country based on the latest provincial statistics made available by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

In a letter, Romulo Virola, NSCB Secretary General, congratulated Governor Ben P. Evardone as Eastern Samar is among the 30 best provinces in the Philippines based on the Provincial Good Governance Index computed by the NSCB.

Prior to the administration of Evardone, the province belonged to the 20 poorest provinces in the country or popularly called the "Club 20."

Governor Evardone stressed that the hard work his administration is putting forth is paying off as the province did not just graduate from the Club 20 but is now among the top 30 provinces.

"It's so consoling to know that the economic reforms we are applying in the province are gaining great outcomes as shown in the results of the survey," Evardone said.

Eastern Samar was included in the top list for its success in reducing poverty incidence in the province.

The provinces that fared well in reducing poverty incidence are Ifugao, Bohol, Camiguin, Capiz, Tawi-tawi, Lana del Sur, North Cotabato, Romblon, Sulu and Tarlac.

Also included in the list are Catanduanes, Zambales, Negros Occidental, Apayao, Cebu, La Union, South Cotabato, Sorsogon and Ilocos Sur.

In an article by Virola posted in NSCB's website, he noted that 6 provinces in the top ten lists were once in the ranks of poorest provinces in year 2000. Eastern Samar is one of the provinces that made a big leap from the poorest to the best provinces in the country.

Governor Evardone emphasized that the battle against poverty will not end with the statistical result.

"Obviously, marks of scarcity in the province are still visible and we will continue to strive to totally pluck out the Eastern Samareños from poverty," he said.

"We have high hopes for Eastern Samar in terms of economy," the governor continued.

"Investors are coming in, both local and foreign, as we continue to promote tourism industry in Guiuan to the world and as these will be in place, surely it will make greater economic impact on our province," Evardone said.

Eastern Samar tops DepEd's NAT nationwide

Jenevieve Palma, a Grade 6 pupil of Lawaan Central School in Eastern Samar will be the premier awardee of the provincial government as part of the 42nd founding anniversary celebration of the province today.

Palma topped the National Achievement Test (NAT) administered by the Department of Education this year and has received numerous recognitions, including one which was given by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang, for her exemplary academic achievement.

For another moment, President Arroyo, together with Governor Ben P. Evardone will be handing her a plaque and a cash gift.

2007 NAT second placer Faye Jessa Edgargo who, like Palma, comes from Lawaan Central School will also be an awardee. Other students who will receive recognition from the province are: Kathleen Rose Taniñas, Mariel Baconawa, Joriza Faye Mora, Carmela Mae Bajado, Josnell Manuel Edgargo, Myka Mae Duran and Frances Dominique B. Capones.

Meanwhile, Dr. Niña Villalon, Eastern Samar Schools Division Superintendent will also be receiving an award as she was named by Department of Education as Outstanding Schools Division Superintendent in the national level. The province will also be awarding LGUs that have fared well in various outstanding searches. On the other hand, the Provincial Planning Planning and Development Office will be recognized as well for grabbing the Best Website Provincial Category of the National Computer Center's LGU website competition.

Regina Lopez of the province's HRMO will be recognized also as she was named Most Outstanding Provincial Assistant Head of Human Resources Management of the Philippines. "These people are truly serving as inspirations to our fellow Eastern Samareños," Evardone said in a statement. "They are manifestations that our people are real achievers," he said.

Gov. Evardone calls for true peace in the province

ORAS, EASTERN SAMAR – Eastern Samar Governor Ben P. Evardone emphasized the need for "true" peace to take place in the province during the Peace and Development Forum held recently, this town.

In a speech before an estimated crowd of 1000, Evardone stressed that peace does not just happen when gunfights cease.

"Real peace is when there is no hunger, no fear of school fees during enrollment period, no children crying because the parents could not afford milk and food for them," says Evardone in local dialect. The forum, initiated by the 801st Infantry Brigade, Philippine Army based in Camp Daza, Brgy. Fatima, Hinabangan, Samar, was attended by rebel returnees and residents of villages that were once controlled by the New People's Army (NPA).

Col. Alex Albano, 801st IB Deputy Commander, said that peace and tranquility play a significant role in development. "With this orientation, you have just enlisted yourselves as catalysts for development," Albano said.

Evardone for his part assured KAIBIGAN members that the provincial government will be a partner to them. The province will be providing hand tractors, motorboat engines and shallow tube wells to members on installment basis at 0% interest. "This is our way of helping you start a new life," he said. "We don't just aspire to stop gunfight. We desire to make a true progress," he concluded. **(Media Affairs Office)**

Province's website is region's best

The internet website of the province of Eastern Samar, www.easternsamar.gov.ph, was declared Best Regional Website – Provincial Category during the regional website contest conducted by the National Computer Center of Commission on Information and Communications Technology.

Besting other 5 provinces, Eastern Samar's website was found to be the most accessible and informative site in the internet.

Provincial Planning and Development Officer Henry Afable, representing Governor Ben P. Evardone, received the award last October 18 at Leyte SMED Center in Tacloban City.

Evardone said that the provincial website is a showcase that Eastern Samareños are world-class talents. "We can be at par with world-class experts in terms of information technology through website designing, publishing and maintaining," he said. The internet site features the latest news stories, historic and tourist destinations, provincial profile, investment opportunities and other important information relative to the province of Eastern Samar. Afable, assured the governor that his IT personnel will continue to find ways to improve on the website. Evardone, however, stressed that the website is not just maintained for the sake of contest.

"We will regularly update the site to serve its purpose – to inform people here and around the globe about Eastern Samar and what's going on in the province," he pointed. The site is also a nominee to the National Website Contest for LGUs which will be held on November 23, this year.

"Adjudged as the best in the region, there is no impossibility that our website will emerge winner in the national competition," Evardone said.

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Boy, 6, completes 10-km Cebu swim

By Jolene R. Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—SIX-YEAR-OLD WONDER BOY JUSTIN Junio on Thursday completed his objective of swimming the entire 10-km stretch of the Hilutungan Channel off Mactan Island in Cebu, establishing what could be a world record.

Justin finished the swim in 3 hours, 46 minutes and 10 seconds, together with coach Air Force Master Sgt. Jairulla Jaitulla and co-coach Air Force 1st Class Benzon Kasim.

Except for a superficial sting in his left ear from contact with jellyfish, Justin appeared healthy and fit.

First request

As soon as he reached the seashore of Tambuli Beach Resort on Mactan Island, Justin, who was met by his mother Belina Valentina, immediately asked for a biscuit.

Justin, together with his father retired Air Force Col. Jose Florencio Junio, Jaitulla, Kasim and two Navy personnel, took off from the resort for Hilutungan Island on board a Navy rubber boat at 5:45 a.m.

At exactly 6:58 a.m., Justin, with his coaches, jumped from a floating cottage, 50 meters from the Hilutungan Island shore and began the journey back to the resort, stopping only for a minute to drink bottled water, which was given to him by standby rescue teams from the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Air Force 505 rescue team on board rubber boats.

Cooperative weather

The weather cooperated and the channel's usual strong waves were absent.

Dressed in his made-to-order fast skin competitive suit, Justin was playful in the waters using two strokes: Free style and breaststroke. When the jellyfish came his way, Justin had to stay afloat using the swimming style dog paddle for about a kilometer. He was also handed petroleum jelly to place on his face to avoid jellyfish stings. He even told his coach to relax, when the latter told him to follow instructions and not go against the current.

When he reached the seashore of Tambuli Beach Resort, spectators including resort clients and tourists cheered him. The Air Force medical team injected Justin with an antiallergy fluid after he got dressed.

Strong kid

Florentino de la Paz, Emergency Rescue Unit Foundation (Eruf) paramedic, said Justin's vital signs were normal when they checked him after his swim.

"He's an extraordinary child. We've been checking him for two months and he has not been ill, not even a single cold," De la Paz said.

When asked by INQUIRER what he wants to do next, Justin said he would like to compete in the Olympics and challenge the record of Braxton Bilbrey, the 7 year old American boy who swam from Alcatraz Island to San Francisco City in California, a distance of 1.4 miles, in 42 minutes in May last year.

Justin's mother said her son has been enrolled in an undisclosed school in Cebu City. She added that her son loves school but prefers swimming more.

"He's already in Grade 1 and he goes there for socialization. He also learned to speak a little Cebuano," Mrs. Junio said.

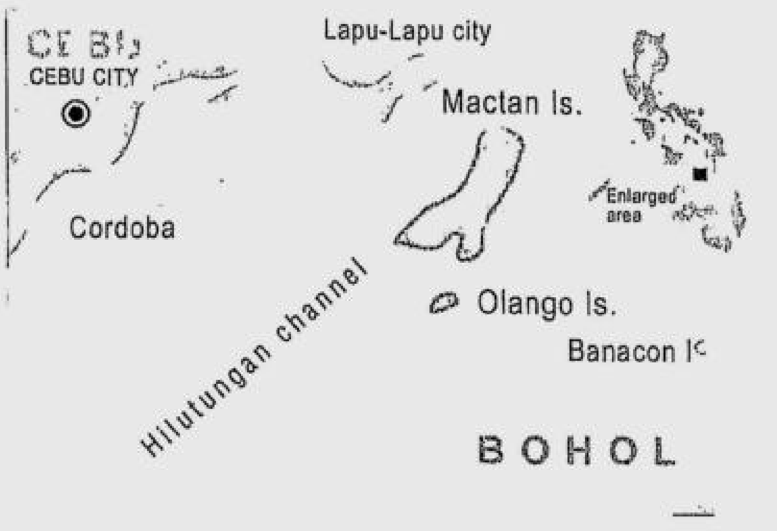
Mama's boy

As the youngest among four siblings, Justin is a mama's boy, noted his 17-year-old sister Johanna.

Johanna described her brother as very energetic and hyperactive. The Junio family is temporarily residing in Cebu.

Colonel Junio said his son practiced for several months before embarking on the Hilutungan challenge.

The Hilutungan swim is big achievement of Justin who is the youngest and only boy who crossed the channel from Hilutungan Island, he added.



Mayor's boycott won't stop Panlilio mobile services

ARAYAT, PAMPANGA—THE PROVINCIAL government delivered services on wheels here on Thursday even as this town's mayor reportedly ordered municipal employees to boycott the mobile services program of Gov. Eddie Panlilio.

Pamisaupan (Helping One Another), the governor's way of bringing the government closer to the people, was instead held at the San Isidro Poblador Parish in Barangay Camba here.

The parish priest, Nestor Tayag, allowed use of the church, multi-purpose hall and grounds as venues when Mayor Luisito Espino declined to host the event, Panlilio said.

Espino did not reply to calls made by the INQUIRER to his mobile phone.

Municipal employees alerted capitol officials about the supposed boycott ordered by Espino.

Eight of 30 barangay captains came nevertheless, with Mapalad village chief Nazario Vinuya saying that the mayor did not order them to stay away from the event.

The provincial government gave anti-rabies shots to dogs and cats, information materials on bird flu, vegetable seeds; screened applications for small loans; provided relief goods, medicines and legal services; held medical and dental missions for some 5,000 residents, according to Lucia Gutierrez, provincial social welfare officer.

The mobile library came to town while help desks for overseas workers and farmers were opened for legal and technology advice. Over 200 women availed themselves of pap smear tests.

At the church where Panlilio spoke to some 700 people, many raised their hands when he asked how many of them had not gone to the provincial capitol for years.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

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STL divides Aklan provincial, town officials

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—WHEN IT COMES to Small Town Lottery (STL), almost all of Aklan's mayors are willing to try its operation, but the provincial board is not.

In a special session held on Oct. 30, the board rejected the numbers game for being "detrimental to the moral, familial and financial well being" of residents.

"While the body is fully aware that resource and employment generation has been identified as the major concern of the proponents of STL operation, it is equally of the view that there are other ways of achieving this objective without resorting to the operation of STL," it said in a resolution.

The measure, sponsored by Board Member Wilbert Ariel Igoy, reaffirmed three resolutions passed by the board on June 21, Sept. 26 and Dec. 13 last year, opposing the project.

Earlier, 16 of Aklan's 17 municipal mayors, belonging to the Aklan chapter of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), invited the chair and general manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) to conduct a test run of the project.

They said in a resolution that the legalization of the STL would lessen the work of law enforcement agencies tasked with cracking down on illegal gambling and would allow them to focus on other peace and order and security concerns.

STL proceeds will benefit charitable institutions and local government units and can be used to fund programs and services for the people, they said.

Only the officials of Kalibo and Altavas municipalities disagreed.

The provincial board said the operation of STL "would only lead to corrupting the greater number of our people and making them depend on luck rather than on their own talents and capabilities in their economic endeavors."

In a public hearing held on Oct. 26, Romualdo Quinones, manager of PCSO special projects department, gave a briefing on how the STL was operated and how revenues were to be shared by local government units and agencies.

But the board said in a report that various sectors that attended were "overwhelmingly and vehemently against the operation of STL."

The Archdiocese of Kalibo and other religious groups, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Aklan, nongovernment and civic groups and business organizations have opposed the STL operations.

The government designed STL to be an alternative for the underworld lottery jueteng, that has become for decades a source of payoffs to government officials and police officers.

But critics of STL said rather than stopping people from betting on jueteng, the new game of chance has instead abetted a gambling culture that keeps people from entering into forms of livelihood using their skills, rather than merely relying on luck.

A PMA CADET grimaces as he bends backward in rites that are traditional in the military school. The Baguio City government has expressed interest in checking if practices such as this, and other factors inside the academy, had contributed to fatal illnesses among PMA cadets. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Baguio offers health experts to PMA execs

BAGUIO CITY—THE CITY GOVernment has offered to send health experts to check the conditions inside and outside Fort del Pilar here, the home of the Philippine Military Academy, following the death of another cadet on Nov. 6.

Acting Mayor Daniel Fariñas said on Thursday that the city is disturbed by reports that this is the second death attributed to an ailment caught by a cadet inside the PMA grounds.

The regimented lifestyle imposed by the academy requires cadets to spend most of their four-year course confined inside the PMA, he said.

Fariñas is the foster parent of Cadet First Class Reenan Ferrer, 22, a graduating cadet of PMA Class 2008 Baghawi (Bagong Halaw ng Lahi), who died from an apparent illness while on vacation last week in Metro Manila for All Saints' Day.

Military doctors said Ferrer's death was due to suspected upper respiratory tract infection. He was confined at the AFP Medical Center for fever and periodic coughing.

Pneumonia killed Cadet Fourth Class John Limuel Burcer, 17, on May 8 this year.

PMA officials said 11 other cadets were confined briefly at the PMA Station Hospital here this year for various illnesses that began with symptoms like coughs and fever.

In September this year, Air Force 2nd Lieutenant Ariel Toledo, PMA valedictorian in 2006, died of cancer, which he had been battling since he received his commission.

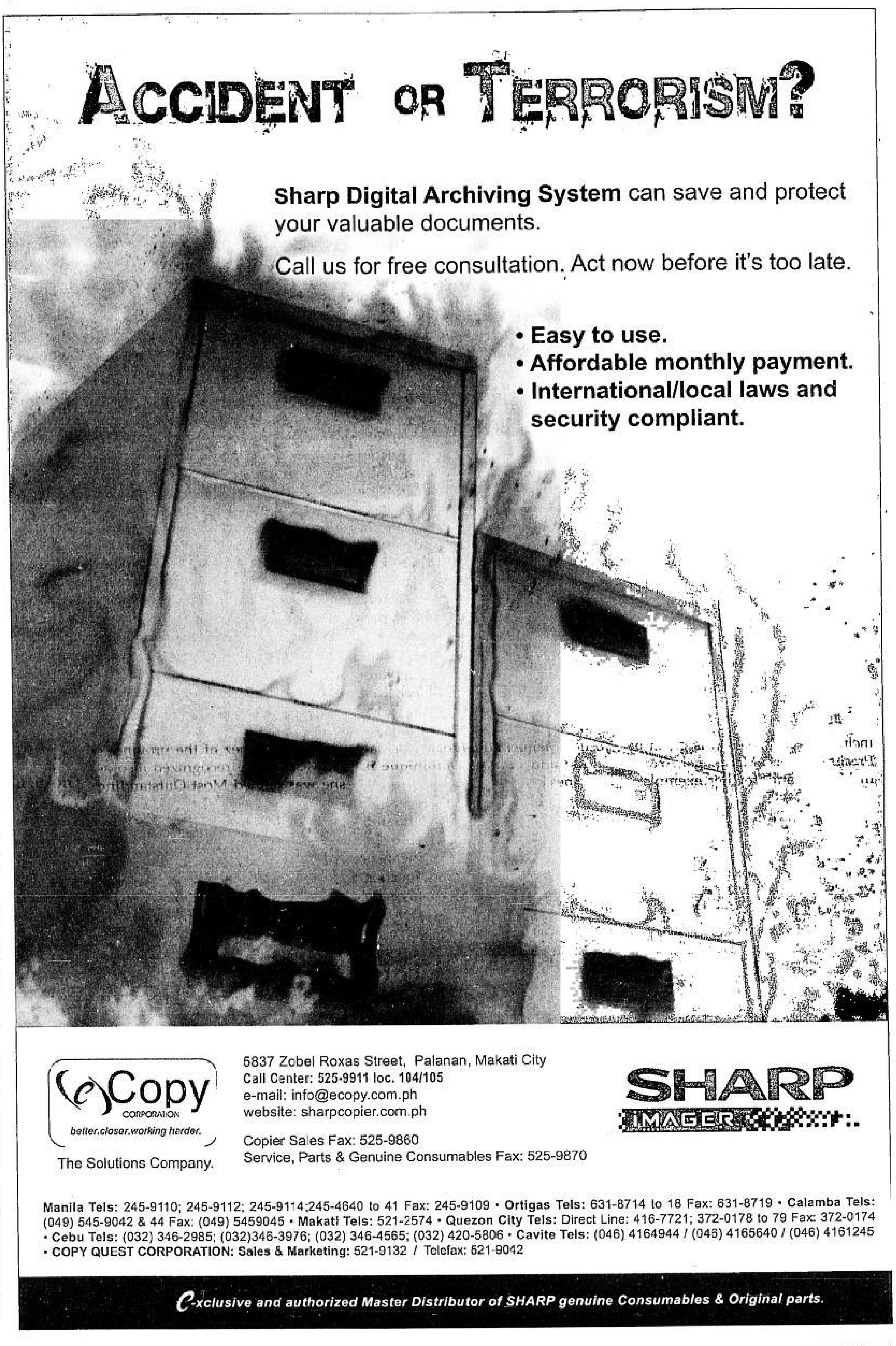
Ferrer's remains were shipped to the PMA on Thursday.

But until autopsy results are released, Ferrer's family has not ruled out other possible causes of his death, Fariñas said.

"We are not alarmed yet. We just want to know because this was so sudden," he said. "We really cannot tell where a virus comes from so we want to find out … Most cases [at the PMA] involved injuries suffered from the rigorous exercises there, but a viral infection? That's very suspicious."

"PMA also has its own doctors, but our health department could also be of help and we will coordinate with [academy doctors] … *kasi lumalabas hindi maliwanag iyong* cause (because it appears nothing is clear about what caused Ferrer's death)," he said.

If the PMA agrees to allow them into the camp, the city government doctors will check for moisture anomalies, the wear and tear of its sanitation and sewage, or even the geological conditions of the academy, he said. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



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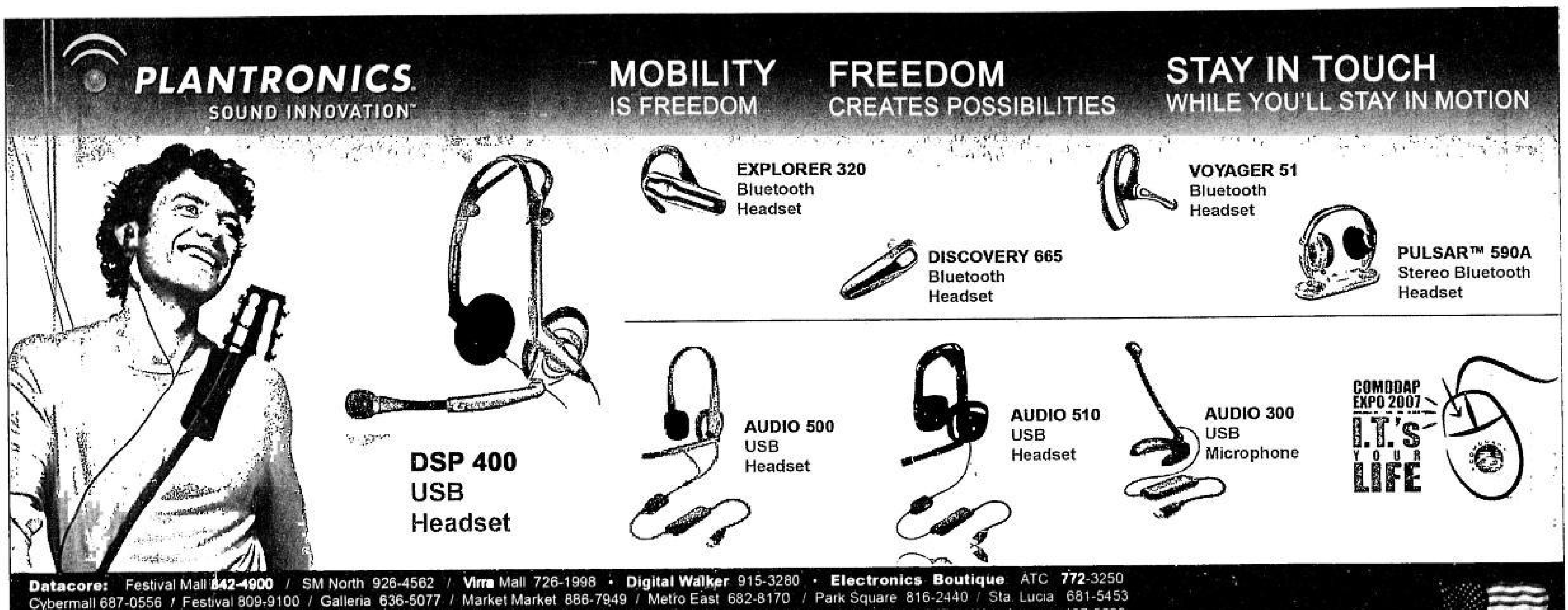

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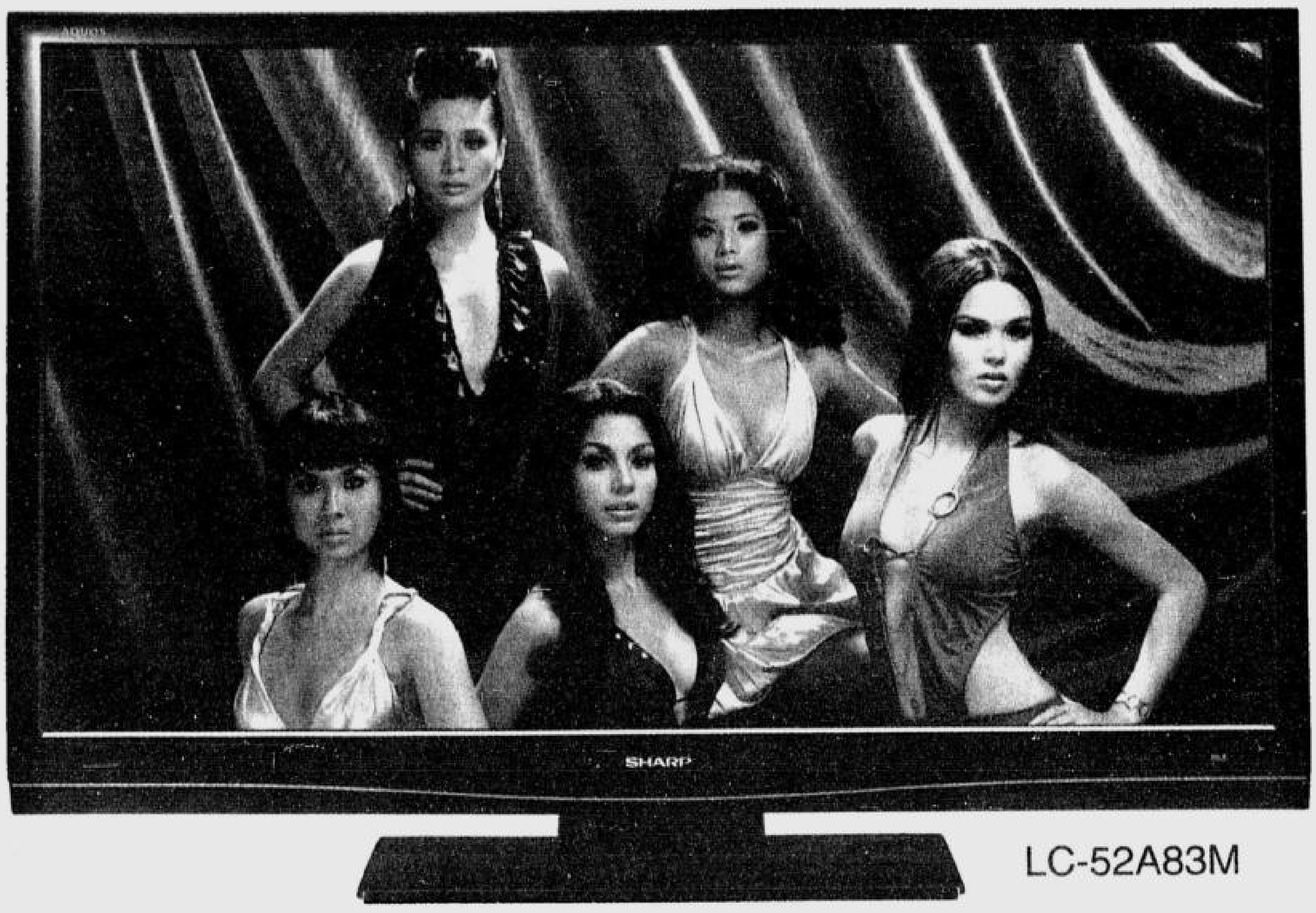

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First win for amparo: Zambo activist freed

From page A1

Muñasque, a Bayan Muna organizer and a leader of the Christian Youth Fellowship-United Church of Christ in the Philippines, walked home a free man on Wednesday afternoon.

Muñasque, 33, is the first known case of a detainee getting such a relief from a local court since the Supreme Court introduced the writ of amparo on Oct. 24 to stem the tide of extrajudicial killings and so-called "forced disappearances" in the country.

He was freed the same day the Pagadian City Regional Trial Court granted his petition for a writ of amparo—a judicial remedy for people being allegedly held illegally by the military or the police, or those being subjected to military harassment.

The Supreme Court yesterday confirmed the release of Muñasque.

Under the writ of amparo, the military or the police will no longer be able to simply deny involvement in abductions or extrajudicial killings. They must also prove they are not involved and, on court orders, open their detention facilities for inspection.

5 amparos

The courts have issued at least five writs of amparo since the measure took effect.

They involved the cases of missing University of the Philippines students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan, and the brothers Raymond and Reynaldo Manalo, who had escaped from military custody and sought court protection against further military harassment.

Writs have also been issued for urban poor leader Lourdes Rubrico, who had been abducted by the military and later released, for Romulos Robiño and Ryan Supan, both missing after being abducted in Pampanga, as well as for Romulos' sister Leny and his mother Lolita, who both fear military harassment.

The Supreme Court scheduled a hearing of the Robiños' case for Nov. 19 before the Court of Appeals.

Yesterday, the appellate court held hearings on the cases of the two missing UP students and the brothers Manalo.

"We rejoice that the writ worked," Karapatan secretary general Marie Hilao-Enriquez said on news that Muñasque had been released. "We hope this will happen in other cases."

Tirsendo Poloyapoy, counsel for the Muñasque family, said: "This is the last weapon of victims of extrajudicial killing and disappearance."

Muñasque and peasant Roger Morales were stopped at a military checkpoint in Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur, while en route to Pagadian City on Oct. 24.

Elements of the Army's 53rd Infantry Battalion noticed that Muñasque's knee was bleeding and brought the pair to an unknown place in blindfold and handcuffs. Morales was freed the next day but Muñasque had remained in custody.

Enriquez said that the case of Muñasque was a clear proof that the military had been carrying out abductions, illegal arrest and detention of individuals.

Poloyapoy, a member of the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), said: "It (the writ) is a deterrent. This would give the military second thoughts about doing illegal arrest because the victims can be taken back through the writ of amparo."

Judge Abraham Ramas of Pagadian ordered Muñasque's release on the ground that the military failed to justify his continued confinement, he said.

The mothers of the two UP students asked the Court of Appeals to subpoena farmer Raymond Manalo, who had escaped from detention, so that he could confirm his claim that one of the students had been killed by his captors.

The mothers' lawyer, Rex Fernandez, said the testimony of Raymond would also help them support their demand for an inspection of several military detachments, where the students Cadapan and Empeño, as well as their companion Manuel Merino, were allegedly held.

Fernandez said he had received information that Raymond knew what had happened to Cadapan, Empeño and Merino.

Raymond, with brother Reynaldo, escaped from military detention in August and said in a statement filed with the Supreme Court that he saw Cadapan, Empeño and Merino while they were all detained by the military.

Raymond also said Merino had been killed by his captors.

Fernandez said during yesterday's hearing that he had received information that Raymond knew that Cadapan had "followed the fate" of Merino, whose body supposedly had been burned.

Opposition to inspection

Assistant Solicitor General Amparo Tang opposed the inspection order sought by the families, saying opening military detachments would jeopardize national security.

In their petition, Erlinda Cadapan and Concepcion Empeño asked the high court to stop the military from harming their daughters and Merino.

If the three are dead, the parents asked that the military be told to reveal where the bodies were buried and to pay their families P5 million in damages.

In the separate hearing of the writs for the Manalo brothers, Court of Appeals Associate Justice Vicente Veloso said that contrary to the assertions of the government lawyer, the writ of amparo "is an overarching writ that does not have to comply with the requisites of a search warrant."

Senior Solicitor Luis Simon also opposed demands for the inspection of military camps.

Lawyer Jose Manuel Diokno, representing the Manalos, said there was a need for the inspection because the brothers' had indicated in their affidavits that other victims were still detained in those camps.

The Manalo brothers said they were abducted on Feb. 14, 2006, in San Ildefonso, Bulacan, but managed to escape from a house somewhere in Pangasinan last Aug. 13.

Another forced disappearance

In Davao City, the mother of a 22-year-old youth who went missing in Paquibato district over a week ago filed a petition for writ of amparo before the regional trial court.

Bebelita Bustamante, 47, said her son, Luisito "Yongyong" Bustamante, was held for questioning by militiamen belonging to the Army's 73rd Infantry Battalion on Oct. 27 and had not been seen since. *With a report from Germelina Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao*

NPC offers to sell 'bastardized' press freedom mural to PDI

From page A1

David, Juan Mercado and Conrado de Quiros. The images of David and Mercado were altered: The former was made to look sinister with his hair and mustache longer and fuller and the latter's white hair was painted black.

The Neo-Angono Artists Collective (NAAC), which the NPC commissioned to paint the 8-foot by 32-foot mural for a fee of P900,000, had complained that the mural was altered without their consent.

The alterations were made the day before the mural was unveiled by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Oct. 26, the NPC's 55th founding anniversary.

The alterations included the headline on Jonas Burgos' disappearance, which was changed from "Press Freedom Fighter's Son Abducted" to "Press Freedom Fight Is On"; the *alibata* K tattoo on Andres Bonifacio's left arm was covered with a red heart and the name of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines was erased from the banner of the demonstrators.

Potential buyers

"Talks" were already under way with potential buyers, according to Logarta.

"The alterations will remain. That is the value of the mural, that has given it its undeserved notoriety," he said.

Logarta said the mural was paid for with contributions from NPC officials and donors.

"I admit not all the money is crystal clear, but no NPC money was used to pay the NAAG," he said.

From his own pocket, Logarta shelled out P80,000. The others who contributed were Hataw publisher and NPC director Jerry Yap, P300,000, and NPC vice president Benny Antiporda, P150,000.

The mural has been installed on the walls of the restaurant on the third floor of the NPC building that overlooks the Pasig River, the same wall occupied by a Manansala mural which the NPC sold for P10 million last year.

The sale caused an uproar from other NPC members who questioned the propriety of the transaction. The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), which has claimed ownership of the NPC building and lot, sued the NPC officers for "qualified theft." The GSIS acquired the property after the NPC failed to pay its loans.

But it was the new mural that has drawn a stream of visitors since Monday, Logarta said.

On Wednesday, Edita Burgos, widow of press freedom icon Jose Burgos Jr. and mother of missing activist Jonas Burgos, visited the NPC to see the mural. The faces of Edita and her son on the mural were also altered.

Logarta said a relative of Don Joaquin "Chino" Roces, former publisher of the pre-martial law Manila Times, also visited and took photos of the artwork.

He said journalists, artists and several journalism students from Far Eastern University, Polytechnic University of the Philippines and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila also viewed the mural.

The mural has attracted a bigger crowd than the concert of Carmen Pateña, which the NPC organized last month, Logarta said.

But the mural has still failed to lure journalists back to the club.

Once the noisiest watering hole in town where tired, hungry and angry journalists gathered every night, the NPC bar has been reduced to a ghost restaurant run by a skeleton staff.

On Wednesday night, the bar had only one guest. Logarta said the NPC was not getting the support that journalists used to give the club.

"We have made renovations, but they still do not come here," he said.

Aside from the new mural, the NPC has new tiles, fresh wall paint, and new electrical wiring.

A new elevator, which the NPC bought for P1.2 million, has replaced the antique lift that used to conk out midway to the third floor.

Pulling out trapped journalists, or getting trapped in a malfunctioning elevator, was an experience many journalists and their guests went through.

Protest rally

Instead of journalists, the NPC attracted angry artists at noon yesterday.

Some 25 young artists staged a rally in front of the NPC building in Intramuros, Manila, to protest the alterations to the mural created by the Neo-Angono Artists Collective.

Members of Karatula Youth Artists of the Philippines, who carried placards saying "Fight for press freedom," however, failed to get into the third floor where the mural was displayed because it was closed.

It was not known if the group was able to speak with NPC officers.

Police said the group dispersed shortly after.

Since the 1990s, the NPC has suffered financial problems brought about by mismanagement. Partisan politics also wracked the club. The last two club elections were so bitterly fought, they had to be settled in court. *With a report from Allison W. Lopez*

In death, poor little girl's wishes come true; gov't now helping family

From page A1

"This is a very unfortunate incident. Government is focused on antipoverty and antihunger programs, and we'll just have to work a little bit more," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, when asked about Ms Arroyo's reaction to the suicide.

The story of Amper's death stirred outrage among many.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has promised to shoulder the burial expenses. "We have given her parents about P5,000," Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral said.

"We also want to find out how the government could help her family," she said.

Cabral said she ordered social workers to verify reports that poverty drove Amper to take her own life, saying there were many poor people in the Philippines but others did not resort to killing themselves.

DSWD personnel in Southern Mindanao confirmed that, indeed, poverty was the reason the girl had killed herself.

Before Mariannet hanged herself with a nylon cord on Nov. 2 in Davao City, she wrote a letter to GMA 7's "Wish Ko Lang" asking for a new pair of shoes, a bag, a bicycle and better-paying jobs for her parents.

She also left a diary narrating her family's difficulties in sending her and a younger brother to school and how she wished her father's health would improve and he would get a good job other than doing small carpentry work.

In Davao City, Isabelo Amper, the girl's father, believed that the government had finally felt the needs of poor people like him and his family when Ms Arroyo ordered that he be given assistance.

"I'm confused and at the same time happy because it seems our problems have been solved. Through her death, the government was able to see the needs of people like us," said Isabelo, a construction worker who for a year now has been jobless because of a kidney ailment.

Financial, health and livelihood assistance will also be extended to the family, according to Health Secretary Francisco Duque III.

"It's painful to think that she's already gone. But even in her death, she was still thinking about us ... she was an instrument for government to see our situation," Isabelo said.

Ms Arroyo also ordered the immediate implementation of the Department of Education's (DepEd) poverty-alleviation program after it was found that Mariannet's family had not received their kilo of rice per school day under the DepEd's Food-for-School Program.

At a press conference at the Palace, Duque noted that the 12-year-old victim [not 11 as earlier reported] came from Davao City, a well-off urban center in Mindanao.

The daily feeding program being administered by DepEd in primary public schools only covers Metro Manila and the 10 poorest provinces in the country, he said.

Beneficiaries of DepEd's feeding and rice take-home program are poor pupils from pre-school to Grade 6 (about 2.6 million nationwide), plus the 1.2 million based in Metro Manila, for a total of 3.8 million pupils, Malacañang said.

"We commiserate with the sense of loss, sense of grief that the family is experiencing right now," said Duque, whose Department of Health is the lead agency in the government's hunger mitigation program.

Duque, who initially described the suicide as an isolated case, said: "But we take responsibility for everything because we are leaders of government. We need to ensure that services are there."

Protests vs 'isolated' case

His comment that it was "an isolated case" set off street protests.

"One death is too much," said the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), a nongovernment organization helping fight poverty in the Philippines.

"We were shocked and saddened by the news of the suicide of the 12-year-old girl, and for a few hours our world stopped. To hear the government reducing her death to an isolated case is outrageous," GCAP said.

The militant League of Filipino Students (LFS) said the girl's death "should be a wake-up call for those using power for selfish ends."

"While the people in power are giving out thousands of pesos in bribes in desperation to stay in office, poor people who cannot afford to pay for their basic needs are being driven to extreme desperation to the point of committing suicide," LFS president Vencer Crisostomo said.

Light candles

LFS members nationwide were scheduled to "light candles on campuses" to express their condolences to Amper's family, according to Crisostomo.

The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) also urged the Arroyo administration to take "dramatic interventions, such as direct subsidies to the poorest of the poor so that they can continue with their schooling despite their financial circumstances.

ACT chair Antonio Tinio said the girl's suicide "reminds us of the devastating toll that grinding poverty takes on individuals and families."

Sadly, Tinio said, "some 3.4 million school-age children are currently out of school, most of them forced to drop out due to circumstances similar to Mariannet's."

Ironically, Davao City was one of seven local government units that were awarded the other day by Ms Arroyo with the CROWN award, acronym for Consistent Regional Outstanding Winner in Nutrition.

Local officials of Davao City, Asipulo in Ifugao, Plaridel in Bulacan, Atimonan in Quezon, Pasig City, and Nabas in Aklan received the award and cash prizes from the National Nutrition Council at the Manila Hotel.

Malacañang said that the seven local government units were among the 25 LGUs that were honored by Ms Arroyo and the council during the National Nutrition Awarding Ceremony.

Ms Arroyo, who learned that the schoolgirl took her life for lack of money to go to school and spend for school projects, among others, ordered the DepED to widen the coverage of alternative distance education program. *With reports from Jerry E. Esplanada and Reuters*

Yes, the look of love is in your eyes, hips, too

From page A1

der to analyze their gait, the weekly says.

The women also gave a saliva sample to assess their hormone levels.

Women who were in the fertile period of their menstrual cycle walked with smaller hip movements and with their knees closer together, the scientists found.

Forty male volunteers were shown the footage of the women and were asked to rate those with the sexiest walk. The winners were those who turned out to be in the least fertile part of their cycle.

The research, by Meghan Provost, is to be published in the US journal Archives of Sexual Behavior, says the report.

The study appears to run counter to recent research that showed men respond more readily toward women at ovulation. A US paper published last month found that lap dancers earn more tips during their fertile period than during the nonfertile part of their cycle.

How she fends them off

But, the Canadian researchers believe, there is no contradiction, because a fertile woman gives out "come-hither" signals at close range rather than at a distance.

These signals come through scent molecules called pheromones and facial expressions. The proximity means a woman can vet a potential mate for fitness before allowing him to come close to her.

In contrast, men can pick up the attractiveness of a woman's walk from a long distance—and a "sexy" walk, visible from afar, could therefore act as an unwitting signal to less appealing males.

So, having a less sexy walk at the time of ovulation gives a woman an evolutionary advantage: She can hide her fertile period from an undesirable man who might want to take advantage of her at the time.

All in the eyes

The eyes also give signals—as in the music Burt Bacharach penned four decades ago and Dusty Springfield sang in the James Bond film "Casino Royale."

Researchers have now concluded that "The Look of Love" is, indeed, all in the eyes: Looking directly at someone makes you more attractive to them.

The finding, from the Face Research Laboratory at Aberdeen University in Scotland, challenges previous studies that have attributed attractiveness to physical characteristics—such as a preference for symmetrical faces, large lips in women and strong jaw-lines in men.

Dr. Claire Conway, author of the study that was published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society on Wednesday, said that maintaining eye contact and smiling makes you more attractive.

Conway and fellow researchers analyzed the effect of gaze direction, facial expressions and gender on attractiveness.

Power of gaze

Participants were found to be more attracted to happy faces, looking directly at them and of the opposite sex.

"When asked to think of examples of attractive facial characteristics, most people think of physical traits such as healthy looking skin or a strong jaw," the researchers said.

"Here, we show that gaze direction can also be important for attraction.

"Faces that were looking directly at the viewer were judged more attractive than faces with averted gaze.

"This shows that people prefer faces that appear to like them and that attraction is not simply about physical beauty."

Reports from AFP, Reuters

Late SPORTS

'Other' Bustamante nips Taiwanese ace

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JOVEN Bustamante turns instant hero after besting former world champion Wu yesterday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Musong R. Castillo

UNHERALDED JOVEN BUSTAMANTE booted out former champion Wu Chia-ching of Taiwan yesterday to keep Philippine title hopes soaring again in the $400,000 World Pool Championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

With defending champion Ronnie Alcano and 1999 winner Efren "Bata" Reyes crashing out in the Last 32 late Wednesday, Bustamante became an instant hero by nipping Wu, 10-8, to reach the Last 16 in the company of his more famous compatriot Alex Pagulayan.

Ignored at the start despite finishing third in the World 8-Ball last year, the rookie Bustamante booked the biggest win of his budding career in eliminating the 2005 champion Wu, who became the fourth former winner to get the upset ax.

Pagulayan, the 2004 champion, escaped the rash of upsets and advanced with a 10-2 victory over Luis Condo of Australia.

Bustamante's victory came as a whiff of exhilarating air to a Philippine delegation that was battered by the early departure of Alcano, who lost to Englishman Daryl Peach, 10-6, and Reyes, who bowed to Konstantin Stepanov of Russia, 10-5.

Stepanov claimed another Filipino scalp last night, outclassing Jeff de Luna, 10-4.

It was not only the talented Filipino favorites who were forced to hit the showers.

Consensus favorite and reigning US Open king Alex Boening of the United States also fell, taking a 10-8 loss at the hands of Hungarian Vilmos Foldes.

Oliver Ortmann, the 1995 winner from Germany, was also shown the door by Kuo Pocheng of Taiwan, 10-7.

"The (hometown) crowd expected me to win because of what happened to them (Reyes and Alcano)," the 29-year-old Bustamante told a press conference in Filipino. "I was so nerve-wracked out there because it was my first time to play in the TV table."

"I feel great. I just hope that I can keep playing like that," Pagulayan, who enters his matches and leaves them in a pin-stripped suit, said.

He is lined up for a possible collision with Francisco "Django" Bustamante, who was playing the Netherlands' Nick Van de Berg at presstime.

Bustamante actually blew a 4-0 lead against the hard-breaking 18-year-old Wu anhad to come back from a 6-7 deficit while battling an obvious case of nerves in the last two racks.

Trailing 9-8 and after dropping the yellow 1 on the break, Wu had to push out because the blue 2 was well hidden behind the 6. And instead of playing the shot, Bustamante gave the honor back to the Taiwanese, who put him in jail with a brilliant cut.

But Bustamante, who served as a "house pro" in a pool joint in Kuwait from 2004 before settling back here early this year, hit a cut so thin to drop the No. 2 in the top right pocket while shattering a cluster at mid-table to make it wide open.

"I'm not that disappointed," Wu said through an interpreter. "I never had the chance to regain my confidence and form coming into this tournament because our (pool association in Taiwan) forced me to play in the Asian Indoors in Macau."

Alcano follows Reyes out of WPC tourney

By Musong R. Castillo

IT WAS A SCENE RIGHT OUT OF LAST year's World Pool Championship Finals with Ronnie Alcano occupying one seat and on the other side sat a bald Caucasian rated highly in Europe.

But there was a different result when the match ended in the wee hours of Thursday morning.

Alcano tumbled out of the $400,000 event right in the very first round of the knockout phase after taking a 6-10 beating at the hands of Englishman Daryl Peach, who was backed by a flag-waving gallery of three, at the Araneta Coliseum.

Alcano's departure highlighted what turned out to be a gloomy day for the Philippines as Efren "Bata" Reyes, the toothless, sentimental favorite and ex-champ, took the boot from European No. 1 Konstantin Stepanov of Russia, 10-5.

What started out as a promising Philippine campaign ended disastrously as just five local hopes, from 13 who made the Last 64, made it to the next round.

"I've had some good tournament wins, but because of the situation—(Alcano being the) reigning world champion, big (hometown) crowd and great venue—this has to be one of the best," said Peach in a press conference.

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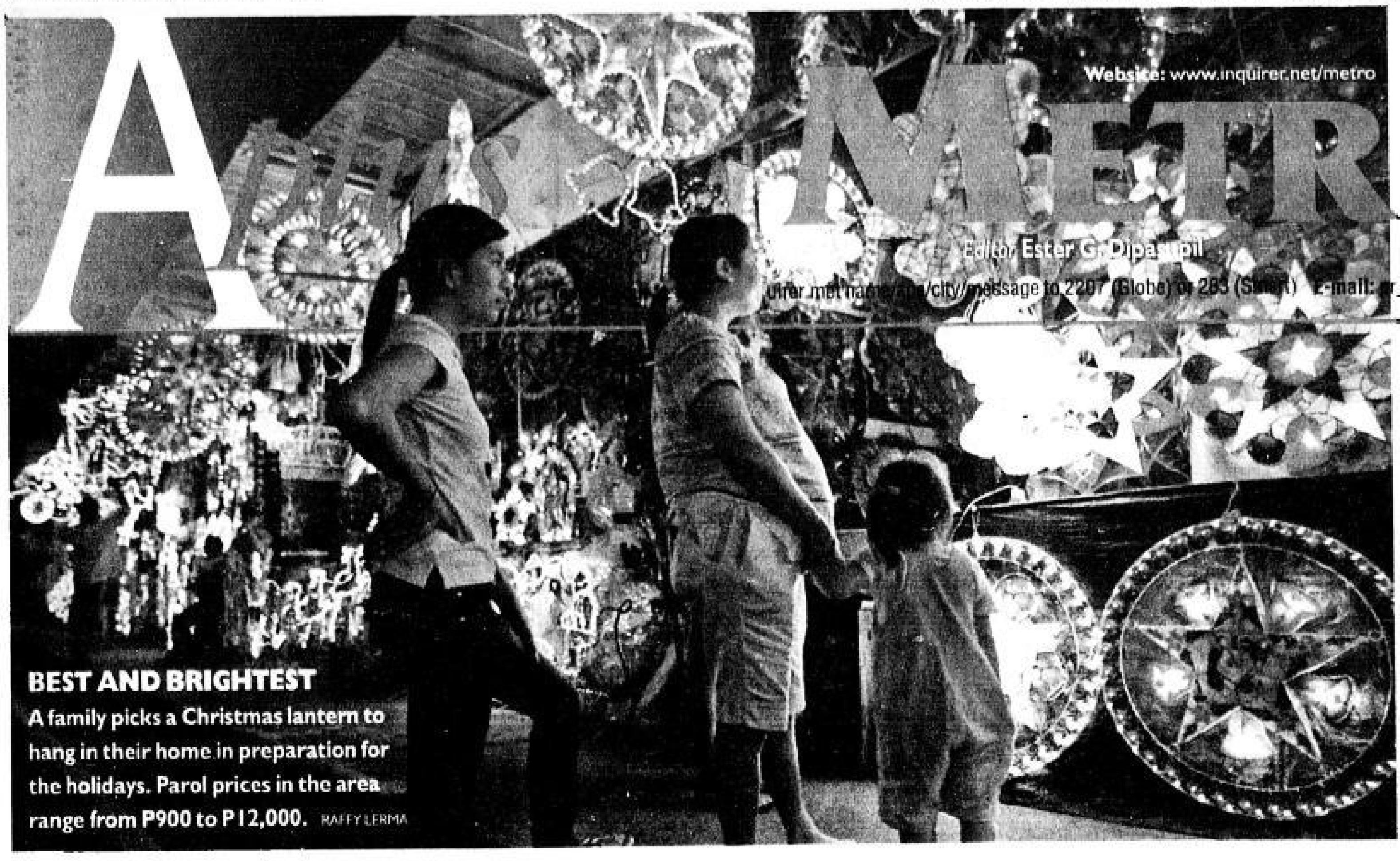


BEST AND BRIGHTEST
A family picks a Christmas lantern to hang in their home in preparation for the holidays. Parol prices in the area range from P900 to P12,000. RAFFY LERMA

Muntinlupa mulls liability insurance

'Consumers, traders will be protected'

By Julie M. Aurelio

BUSINESSES IN MUNTINLUPA CITY MAY SOON HAVE TO GET PUBlic liability insurance before they are issued a license to operate.

Mayor Aldrin San Pedro said this type of insurance would protect consumers and businesses alike if major accidents happen within the premises of commercial establishments.

The proposal was made in the aftermath of the Oct. 19 explosion at Glorietta 2 in Makati City that killed 11 people and injured a hundred more.

A police investigation so far suggested that a gas explosion in the basement, not a bomb, could have caused the noontime blast.

Win-win situation

"Having public liability insurance is a win-win solution to protect companies and customers. The Glorietta 2 explosion is a clear example of why companies should get the insurance," San Pedro said.

San Pedro added that a public liability insurance would protect a company against legal liabilities arising from the operation of its business. It would also offer fair compensation to customers.

"This will indemnify the company when accidents happen within their premises. The insurance may also cover legal fees, costs and expenses and even hospital treatment," the mayor said. Under the city government's proposal, the public liability insurance would be one of the requirements for a company to get a license to operate.

"Companies will be protected against claims and their customers are assured of fair compensation for death or injuries," the mayor said.

He noted that Muntinlupa was fast becoming an alternative site for businesses in southern Metro Manila, citing the increasing number of building, malls and condominiums in the area.

"Thus, there is a need for such a policy for the welfare of the consumer," San Pedro said.

He said the requirement for liability insurance had already been adopted by other cities in Metro Manila like Quezon, Makati, Mandaluyong, Parañaque and Pasig.

"Injuries and accidents in establishments occur almost everyday. We need to make a comprehensive plan to ensure that claims resulting from these are addressed legally," San Pedro said.

QC court acquits man facing slay raps

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

A MAN FACING MURDER AND frustrated murder charges was acquitted by a Quezon City Regional Trial Court (QC-RTC) for being mentally ill.

Eliseo Ignacio was charged with murder on Oct. 24, 2002 for allegedly hacking to death Pablito Jamillarin. In the same incident, Ignacio reportedly attacked Nestor Giray with a knife. Giray survived.

The court ordered Ignacio's transfer to the National Center for Mental Health (NCMH) for treatment.

Presiding judge Alexander S. Balut of the QCRTC Branch 76 relied on the expert opinion of Dr. Mario Oavenga, a psychiatrist at the NCMH as the basis of his decision.

Oavenga said Ignacio suffered from "insanity or psychosis" classified as a "seizure disorder." The accused said he lost consciousness whenever he had "attacks."

Ignacio had said upon his arrest that he could not remember hacking Jamillarin nor Giray on Oct. 24 and said he was probably asleep the whole day. He denied causing harm to anyone.

Court records showed that on Oct. 24, at around 10:45 p.m., security men of Barangay Holy Spirit in Quezon City were informed that a man, later identified as Ignacio, was running wild along 2nd Street, Sto. Domingo.

They reportedly found a bloodied Jamillarin lying still on the ground. The victim reportedly died on the way to the East Avenue Medical Center.

As the security officers looked for Ignacio, they saw Giray bleeding from an ear wound. They learned he was attacked first by Ignacio.

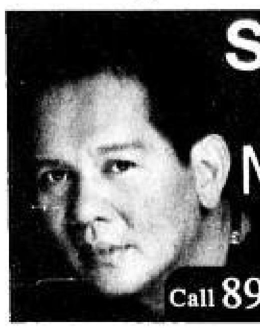
As they tried to arrest Ignacio in his house, he appeared with a knife and tried to stab them.

DID YOU KNOW

TODAY is the 180th birth anniversary of Teodora Alonso, mother and first teacher of national hero Jose P. Rizal. "Lolay" was born in Manila but grew up in Calamba, Laguna. She studied at Colegio de Santa Rosa, one of the few educated women at the time.

She married Francisco Mercado in 1848, and had two sons and nine daughters with him. Jose Rizal was the seventh child and the youngest boy.

Lolay died on Aug. 23, 1911 at the age of 84. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*



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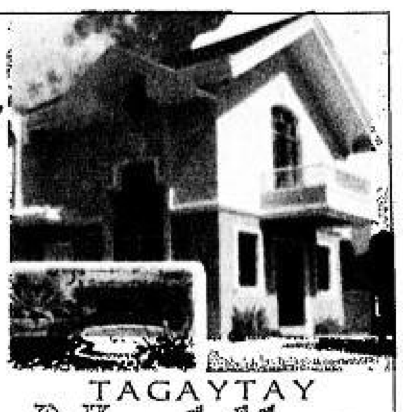

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Lim reshuffles 11 Manila police station chiefs

By Allison W. Lopez

MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO LIM ordered yesterday a reshuffle of the city's 11 station commanders following the recent involvement of an officer and his men in an alleged extortion operation.

Lim directed Manila Police District's Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales to start the reshuffle by relieving Station 4 commander Supt. Ernesto Barlam.

The mayor cited "command responsibility" for alleged extortion activities conducted by his anti-drug unit head, Chief Insp. Resty Nicandro and five of his men.

On Oct. 29 in Sampaloc, Nicandro and his men allegedly asked two women for P45,000, threatening to plant evidence of shabu possession if they refused.

Rosales said the changes would be based on the performance of the station commanders and chiefs of offices. Non-performers would be transferred to other units, he said. The mayor said the MPD reorganization would help eliminate rogue cops from the ranks.

"You are mandated to protect, defend and respect the rights of our citizens," Lim told the Manila police.

He said he would use "iron fists" in dealing with erring policemen as he assured good policemen of his all-out support in the fight against crime.

To further beef up the MPD's efforts, Lim said they would have 60 new mobile cars by the end of the month.

TONDO VISIT A member of the European diplomatic corps plays pool with residents in Tondo, one of the location sites in Manila of the indie movie entitled "Tribu" that won an international award in Europe recently.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Taguig City marks 3rd anniversary with food fest

By Julie M. Aurelio

TAGUIG CELEBRATES ITS THIRD year as a city with a food festival that aims to help raise funds for housing projects for the poor.

About 20 of the city's top restaurants are expected to participate in "A Taste of the City 2—The Many More Flavors of Taguig" that will offer both local and international dishes.

The food festival will be held Dec. 6 at the NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City.

City Mayor Freddie Tiñga said the fest would help the city government raise funds for Family Townhomes, its public housing program.

"Our city is once again renewing its commitment to change the way people live by staging more than a repeat of last year's culinary event," the mayor said.

Last year, Taguig conducted a fundraiser to help the Lighthouse Foundation build more houses.

Tiñga launched the Family Townhomes project last year to provide cheap housing to poor residents. Private sector partners include Habitat for Humanity and Gawad Kalinga.

"The festival generated a positive response from satisfied diners and rave reviews," the mayor said.

"But, more importantly, it raised funds to help change the way the underprivileged people live in Taguig City," Tiñga added.

Participating restaurants include Lé Soufflé, Good Earth, Kaiseki, Hossein, Je Suis Gourmand, Embassy Super Club, Duo, L'Opera, Balducci, Gaudi, Thai@Silk, Larry's Bar, Tatami, Fu by Hai Shin Lou, Pasto, Trio, Zao, Gourdou's Café, Café Mary Grace, Mezzaluna, Jill's, Abe, Bistro Filipino, Ineng's Special Barbecue, Jaemark's, Cupcakes by Sonja, Marta's Cake, and Cacao.

Tickets are available at all participating restaurants, the Serendra Information Desk, S&R Membership Store.

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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Fong Wui Tan Malaysian	Sports-book Operations Officer
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Min Sern Lee Malaysian	Sports-book Operations Officer
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hon Sang Lee Malaysian	Sports-book Operations Officer
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kit Wah Choy Malaysian	Sports-book Operations Officer
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kien Shong Tan Malaysian	Sports-book Operations Officer
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hon Heng Lee Malaysian	Sports-book Operations Officer
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Chun Chuan Goh Malaysian	Sports-book Operations Officer
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Tiam Huat Lau Malaysian	Sports-book Operations Officer
WESUPPORTASIA, INC. U-1103 Cityland Herrera Tower, V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Kazuaki Goto Japanese	Chief Finance Officer
CHAEKJANG SOK VIDEO INC. U I-A Goldpark Center, 88 Meralco Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City	Hyungkeun Lee Korean	General Manager
PJ MANSION INC. Unit 2A, Cuevas Tower Condominium, Pedro Gil cor. Taft Ave., Malate, Manila	Seung Jin Lee Korean	President
SHINE GIRLS HAIR SALON CORP. U-302 Don Rafael Bldg., 504 Guerrero Poblacion, Makati City	Youngmin Kim Korean	General Manager
GOOD MEN TRAVEL AGENCY, INC. Unit 7E, 7/F Anchor Bay Tower, Metropolitan Park, Pasay City	Kuldip Kaur Indian	Marketing Manager
LARSEN & TOUBRO INFOTECH LIMITED 24 & 27/F Tower II, The Enterprise, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ravindra Arvind Mahajan Indian	Systems Analyst
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Vincent Lim Chee Yang Malaysian	Project Consultant
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	Bill Chin San Keong Malaysian	Project Consultant
SYKES ASIA INC. 26/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jae Yong Jin Korean	Korean Client Support
WSP WEB SOLUTIONS PHILIPPINES INC. U-1217 City & Land Mega Plaza, ADB Ave. cor. Garnet Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Jungdong Kim Korean	Account Executive
GUL-ZARA TRADING COMPANY 99 Buenconsejo St., Mandaluyong City	Parmjit Kaur Her Indian	General Manager
SUCH DEVA LENDING INVESTOR CORP. No. 40 F. Manalo, Cubao, Quezon City	Rupinder Kaur Indian	Assistant General Manager
COMCOM TRAVEL & TOURS INC. Rm. 303 S & L Building, 1500 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila	Yonseung Lee Korean	Operation Manager
ASIA-PACIFIC LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT MGT SVCS. INC. Unit 806 Pearl of the Orient Tower, 1240 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila	Yanzhong Ren Chinese	Sales Manager
MINDANAO HANBAT EXPORT CORP. 15 Claims St., GSIS Vill., Proj. 8, Quezon City	Il Sick Jung Korean	General Manager
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BANKING GROUP LIMITED 23/F GT Tower International, 6813 Ayala Ave. cor. H.V. dela Costa St., Makati City	Geoffrey Todd Ward New Zealand	Head of Operations and Support Services
KOLARMY TECHNOLOGY INC. 6309 Vito Cruz Extension, San Antonio Village, Makati City	Mira Mun Korean	Regional Marketing Officer
TETRA PAK (PHILIPPINES) INC. 7/F Net One Center, 26th St. cor. 3rd Ave., Crescent Park, West District, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Tom Joakim Jonsson Swedish	Project Manager
SNS TOUR CORP. 2/F 430 Dr. J. Quintos St., Malate, Manila	Youngkuk Yoon Korean	Manager
PANKOREA CORP. Unit 1204, Pacific Coast Plaza, 1st Villamar St., Tambo, Parañaque City	Young Soo Kim Korean	Technical Staff
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FOSTER WHEELER (PHILIPPINES) CORPORATION 7/F PDCP Bank Ctr., V.A. Rufino St. cor. L. P. Leviste St., Salcedo Vill.,Makati City	Colin Geoffrey Frost British	Construction Engineer/Consultant

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

In the NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S of the DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE-NCR) published October 25, 2007, the position of Unnikrishnan Vasudevan is Shift Lead of INTEGREON MANAGED SOLUTIONS (PHILIPPINES), INC. 9/F 6750 Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI - November 9, 2007)

SOROPTIMIST CUP FOR CALOOCAN
The prestigious President's Cup from the Soroptimist International of the Americas was awarded this year to SI Caloocan City for recruiting 25 new members. In the last years, Caloocan also won the "Most Outstanding Club of the Philippines Region Award." Other awards received: "Best in Renaissance Membership," "Best in Renaissance Public Awareness" and "Best in Renaissance Program." In addition, SIA selected four of the club's entries for the 2007 SIA Celebrating Success! award program. SI Caloocan City also received a Soroptimist Club grant for Women and Girls. Receiving the Cup award are from left: Linabelle Ruth Villarica, SIPR governor; Gloria Bernanrdo, SI Caloocan City president; Ruth Flores, program committee chair; Leticia Yap, membership committee chair and Cherry Tumaneng, public awareness committee chair.

METROBRIEFS

Man dies in Antipolo City fire

A MAN died in a fire that destroyed his house in Antipolo City yesterday. The victim, who suffered third degree burns, was identified as Odilon Bargas, 59, a resident of Sitio Kiskisan, Paenaan, Barangay San Jose. Initial reports showed that the body of the victim was only discovered at 4 p.m., by his nearest neighbor, Jose Alido. The fire was not immediately noticed because the house was located a distance away from the neighbors. Police said Bargas could have accidentally knocked over his gas lamp which could have started the fire. An investigation is being undertaken by Rizal-Scene Of The Crime Operation (SOCO) agents to determine if there was any indication of foul play. ***Kristine L. Alave***

ABE Computer School winner in culinary fest

THE ABE Computer School located in Sampaloc, Manila carved a niche for themselves in the culinary arts when it bested 24 other competitors in the first ever Las Haciendas Communities National Adobo Cooking Contest held in Batangas recently. Paul Jorda, Bautista, a third year culinary student of the school, was also named Grand Adobo Master. The contest was organized by Las Haciendas Community, a prime development project of Phoenix Land Inc. in Laurel, Batangas. Cosponsors were McCormick, Petro Gasul and Silver Swan. The other winners are Marie Zia Frances Magtibay of Lyceum Batangas, second place and Harols Bueno of College of Immaculate Concepcion, Cabanatuan City, third place. Special awards were given to Honey Mae Aldana of La Consolacion, Tanauan, Batangas; Mary Grace Paunil of Arellano University-Grace; and the National Teachers College.

Jehovah's Witnesses conference today

ALL IS set for Jehovah's Witnesses "Follow the Christ" convention beginning today until Nov. 11 The program will be held at the Metro Manila Assembly Hall along the Quirino Highway in Novaliches, Quezon City. All sessions start at 8:20 a.m. Admission is free. For more information, please contact Emmanuel Garfin at cell number 0919-824-27-04.

Finnish teen shoots dead 7 classmates, teacher

TUUSULA, FINLAND—A teenager at a school in Finland went on the rampage Wednesday, shooting dead seven classmates and the headmistress, having first signaled his intentions in a video posted on the YouTube Internet site.

Police identified the killer as 18-year-old Pekka-Eric Auvinen, who died from his injuries late Wednesday after shooting himself in the head following the massacre at Jokela High School in the small town of Tuusula.

Witnesses described chaos and panic as Auvinen killed his headmistress, five boys, two girls, and wounded a dozen others as they tried to flee the carnage.

"We heard the shots and then we broke the windows and jumped out," said Franz Andersin, a 14-year-old student who was in the school when the shooting spree started.

"I knew the guy. He was always smiling. I wonder why he did it," he said.

Finnish Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen described the shooting, the worst in the Nordic country's history, as "a great tragedy."

"This is an awful day ... The shooting has deeply undermined the sense of security in society... Nobody had expected such things," Vanhanen said.

The rampage, which began at 11:43 a.m. inside a classroom at the secondary school of some 450 pupils, came after Auvinen posted a video entitled "Jokela High School Massacre—11/7/2007" on file-sharing website YouTube.

The video, posted sometime in the past two weeks, zooms in on the school with heavy metal music blaring in the background and shows a young man against a red background pointing a gun at the camera.

Within hours of the shooting, the video had been downloaded more than 200,000 times.

In his profile on YouTube, Auvinen, calling himself Sturmgeist89, says: "I am prepared to fight and die for my cause.

"I, as a natural selector, will eliminate all who I see unfit, disgraces of human race and failures of natural selection."

"You might ask yourselves, why did I do this and what do I want. Well, most of you are too arrogant and closed-minded to understand," he added.

He was pronounced dead at 2214 local time after being treated for a single gunshot wound to the head at Helsinki University Hospital.

Police and school pupils alike were at a loss to explain why Auvinen had committed such a terrible act.

"He comes from a very normal family, four people, he has one brother. He had no problems in school," said local police officer Jan-Olav Nyholm naming Auvinen for the first time.

The American-style shooting sent shockwaves through Finland, where such violence is extremely rare. *AFP*

HUMANITY
IS OVERRATED

AN UNDATED picture on the Internet of a Finnish high school student who identified himself as "Sturmgeist89" posing with a pistol. AFP

Defiant Iran reaches key nuclear target

TEHRAN—IRAN HAS REACHED a key target of 3,000 centrifuges for uranium enrichment, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Wednesday, vowing to ignore UN resolutions calling for a halt to Tehran's sensitive nuclear work.

"We have now reached 3,000 machines," a defiant Ahmadinejad told a rally in the northeastern city of Birjand.

It was not the first time that the president had boasted that Iran had 3,000 centrifuges up and running.

"Now it has put into operation more than 3,000 centrifuges and every week we install a new series" of centrifuges, Ahmadinejad said on Sept. 2.

The number is a key milestone because scientists say that in ideal 'conditions it is sufficient to produce enough enriched uranium in one year to make a single nuclear bomb.

The hardline president also said that Iran "could not care less" about UN Security Council resolutions aimed at freezing Tehran's nuclear drive.

The International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed in August that Iran had 12 cascades of 164 centrifuges (1,968) running simultaneously to enrich uranium and that 656 others were either under construction or being tested.

The centrifuges are located at an underground nuclear facility at Natanz in central Iran.

Iran has so far defied international calls to suspend enrichment, the process which produces nuclear fuel but in highly extended form can also make the fissile core of an atomic bomb.

Speaking at the rally, Ahmadinejad vowed that Iran would continue ignoring Security Council resolutions which have imposed two sets of sanctions on Tehran for its failure to heed ultimatums to suspend enrichment.

"Some people say implement the resolutions but we say the resolutions are based on a wrong report," he said.

"They should know that the Iranian nation could not care less about the sanctions," Ahmadinejad said. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Georgia under state of emergency

TBILISI—Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili imposed a 15-day state of emergency after clashes between police and antigovernment protesters he accuses Russia of backing. Part of the center of Tbilisi was cordoned off Thursday after the pro-Western Saakashvili restricted public gatherings and the private media following a day of running battles between police and protestors calling for the president's resignation.

AFP

Afghanistan mourns after attack kills 52

PUL-I-KHUMRI, Afghanistan—Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Wednesday declared three days of national mourning after 52 people were killed, six of them lawmakers, in the country's deadliest suicide bombing. Hundreds of people attended funerals for the dead in the rural town of Pul-i-Khumri, 150 km north of Kabul, where the attacker targeted a crowd gathered Tuesday to welcome visiting parliamentarians. A military plane flew the bodies of the six MPs, including prominent opposition figure Mustafa Kazimi, back to the capital, where several government officials attended a ceremony. The parliamentarians, elected in 2005, four years after the removal of the Taliban government—were to be given a state funeral on Thursday.

AFP

In tests, AIDS vaccine seemed to increase risk

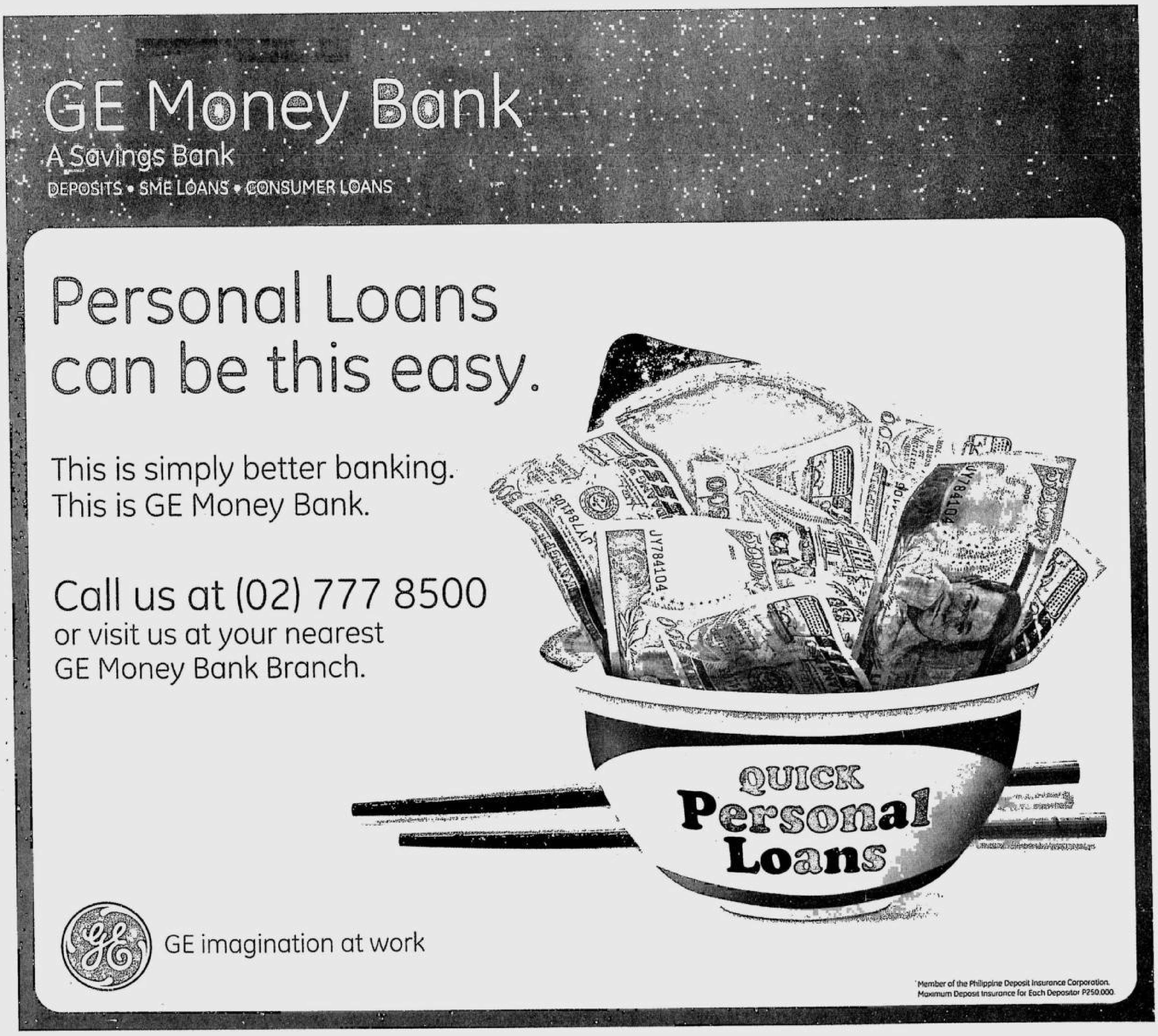
IN A PUZZLING and potentially troubling development, an AIDS vaccine tested in a closely watched trial might have increased the risk among vaccine recipients of becoming infected with HIV, researchers reported Wednesday at a scientific meeting in Seattle. But the researchers said not enough data existed to determine the meaning of the findings about the vaccine, which is made by Merck. The increased risk was principally among a group of people who had preexisting levels of immunity to a common cold virus known as adenovirus type 5, which was modified to become a critical part of the vaccine. Researchers emphasized that the vaccine itself could not cause AIDS, but one theory is that the cold virus may have activated the immune system in some way to make certain recipients more susceptible to becoming HIV-infected when they were exposed to the AIDS virus. But participants at the meeting also emphasized that the findings could be a statistical fluke and that nonbiological factors might have accounted for the difference. Examples of such factors are rates of circumcision and sexual practices among trial participants.

NYT

Operation for Indian girl born with 8 limbs

BANGALORE, India—A 2-year-old girl born with four arms and four legs was in stable condition Thursday, a day after surgeons completed a marathon operation to remove her extra limbs, doctors said. The girl, Lakshmi, was being kept sedated in the intensive care unit at a hospital in the southern Indian city of Bangalore during what doctors said was a critical 72-hour period following the operation. Lakshmi, who has been revered by some in her village as a reincarnation of the four-armed Hindu goddess she was named for, was born joined at the pelvis to a "parasitic twin" that stopped developing in her mother's womb. The surviving fetus absorbed the limbs, kidneys and other body parts of the undeveloped fetus.

AP



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Pakistan police arrest Bhutto supporters

Thousands reported rounded up after Bush tells Musharraf to hold elections

BHUTTO AP

ISLAMABAD—FORMER PAKISTANI PRIME MINister Benazir Bhutto's party said on Thursday that police arrested thousands of its activists overnight, hours after US President George W. Bush urged President Pervez Musharraf to hold elections and quit as Army chief.

Police, who have already detained hundreds of lawyers and other opposition figures and supporters since General Musharraf imposed emergency rule and suspended the constitution on Saturday, denied arresting Bhutto supporters.

"They have raided homes of our activists across Punjab throughout the night. The number of people arrested is now in the thousands," said Farzana Raja, a party spokesperson in the central Punjab province.

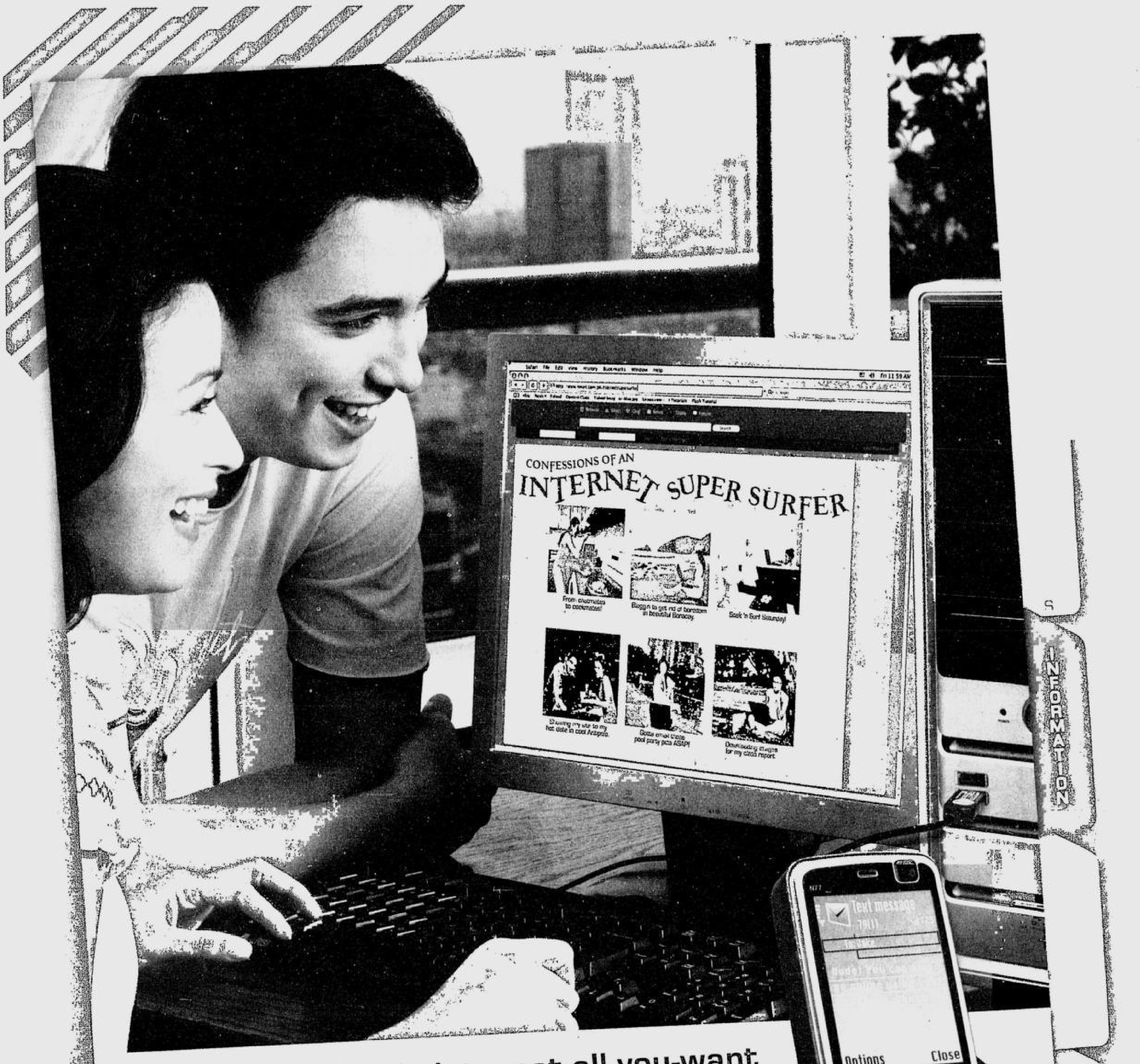
Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party plans to hold a public meeting in Rawalpindi, adjoining the capital Islamabad, on Friday to protest emergency rule and Bhutto has threatened a mass march on Nov. 13 unless Musharraf backs down.

Police have warned the party rallies are banned.

"All kind of rallies have been banned because we have reports from intelligence agencies that 7 to 8 suicide bombers have sneaked into Punjab," Saud Aziz, police chief of Rawalpindi, said.

"We don't want a repeat of (the) Karachi incident," he said, referring to a suicide attack last month in the southern financial capital during a rally to mark Bhutto's return from eight years of self-imposed exile. At least 139 people were killed.

The US had hoped Bhutto would share power with Musharraf after elections due in January. *Reuters*



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WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Miñoza bounces back, shoots 69 /A29

SPORTS

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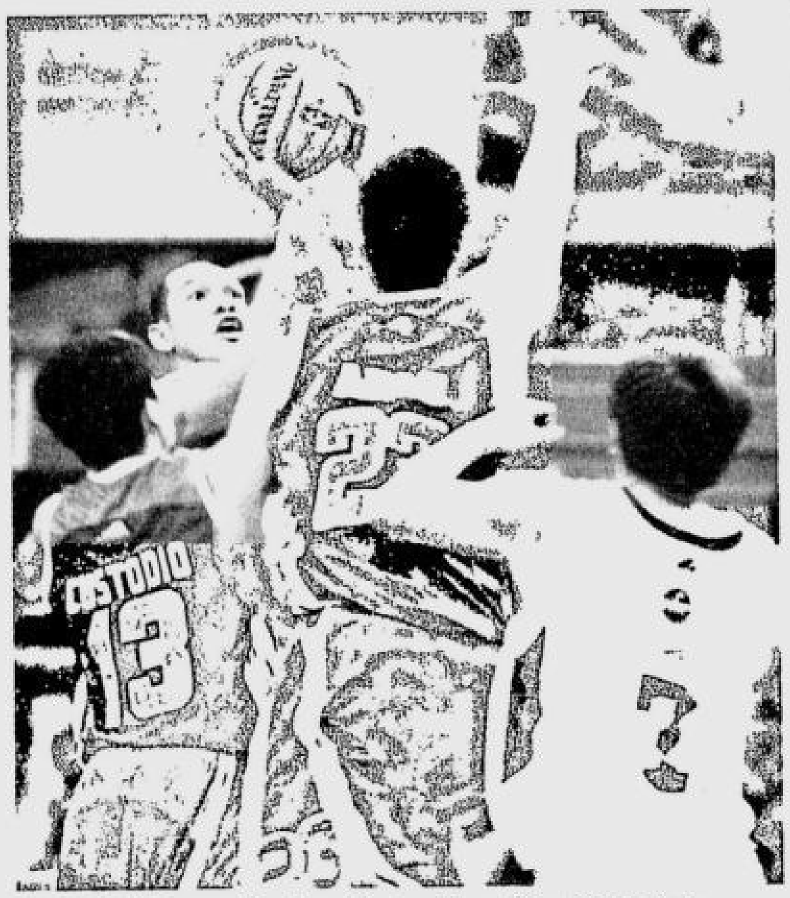
■ Magic cast spell; Celts strike anew /A30

RP quintet spills San Mig Coffee



PHILIPPINE Team spitfire Jason Castro drives off San Mig Coffee's Bonbon Custodio and Clairford Arao in last night's match. ROGER MARGALLO

By Jasmine W. Payo

COACH JUNEL BACULI FINALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THE IMPORTance of Gabe Norwood to the Harbour-Philippine team as it prepares to leave for Singapore tomorrow, even as the PBA and the PBL scheduled separate meetings to discuss ways of helping the embattled national squad.

"We can do without Norwood only if 80 million Filipinos pray for us," Baculi said yesterday after the Nationals wrapped up their PBL guest stint with a 5-2 win-loss record following an 88-78 win over San Mig Coffee.

"We can still do it using only PBL players, especially if Gabe will join us. Gabe will be a big help. He's not a scorer, but he can do other things—hustle, defend, pass the ball. And he's big, so he can also rebound."

Baculi expects Hapee's Fil-Am star—along with several other requested reinforcements—to join the Nationals' Singapore stint in preparation for the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand this December.

The PBL board will convene on Monday, while the PBA will gather its own officials on Tuesday to discuss the possibility of loaning players to the national squad.

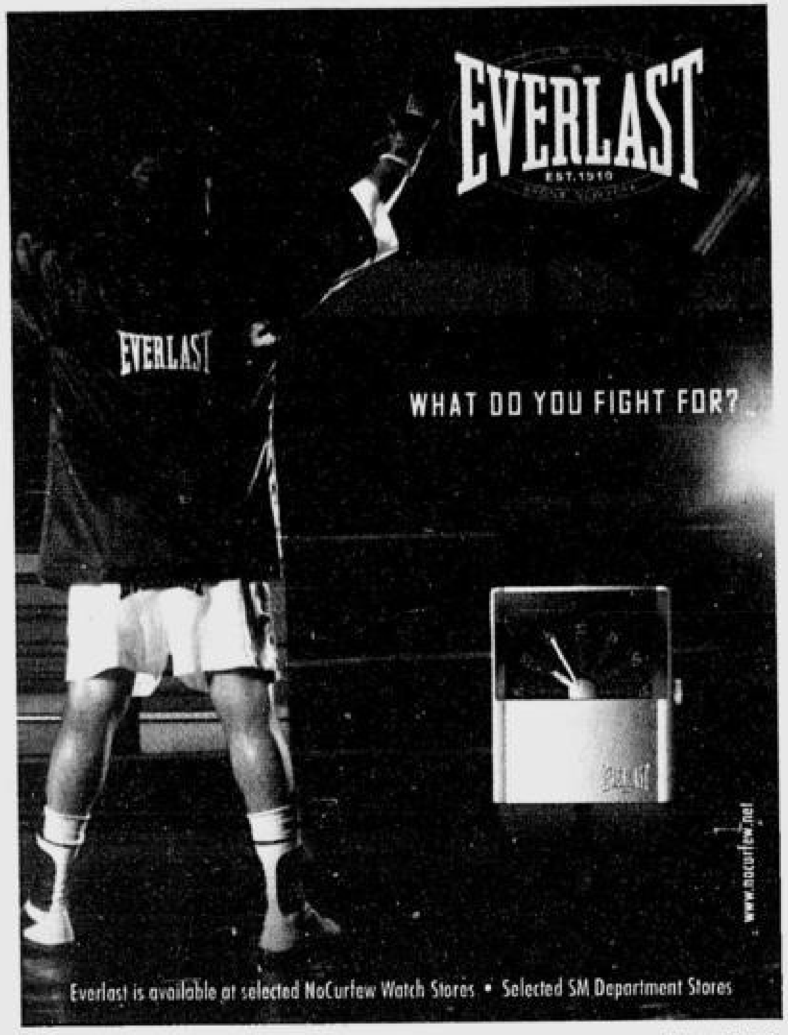
"The league members are more than willing to help in their own little way to plug the holes with regard to the composition of the national team," said PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad.

"Let us wait for (Hapee team owner) Dr. Cecilio Pedro to return (from abroad) and decide; he's

RP QUINTET/ A28

STANDINGS	W	L
Hapee	3	0
Harbour	3	0
RP Team	5	2
Toyota Bal.	2	2
SMig Coffee	2	2
Mall & More	1	3
Bacchus	0	3
Pharex	0	4

GAMES TOMORROW
(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
2 p.m.—Hapee vs Bacchus
4 p.m.—Toyota Balintawak vs Harbour Centre



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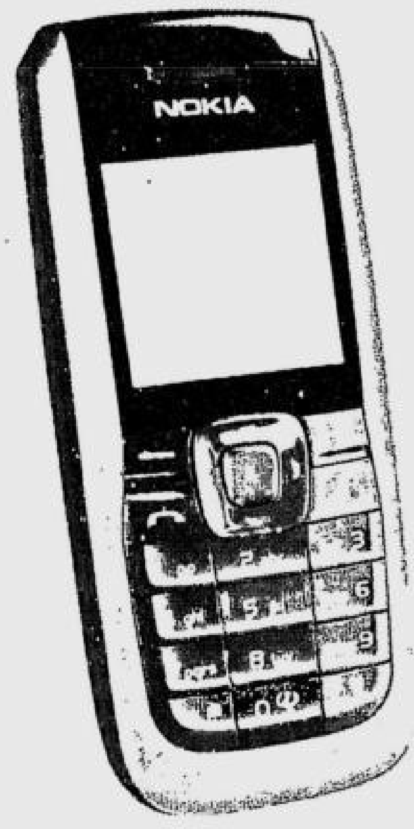
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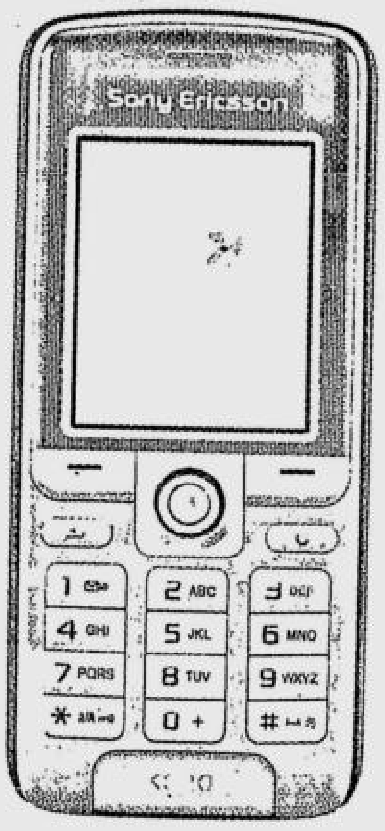
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Pacquiao to pick next foe

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IT WILL BE MANNY PACQUIAO'S call as far as his next fight is concerned.

The popular Filipino champion stressed this yesterday as he broke his silence over the issue of his next opponent from his sick bed at his Gen. Santos City mansion.

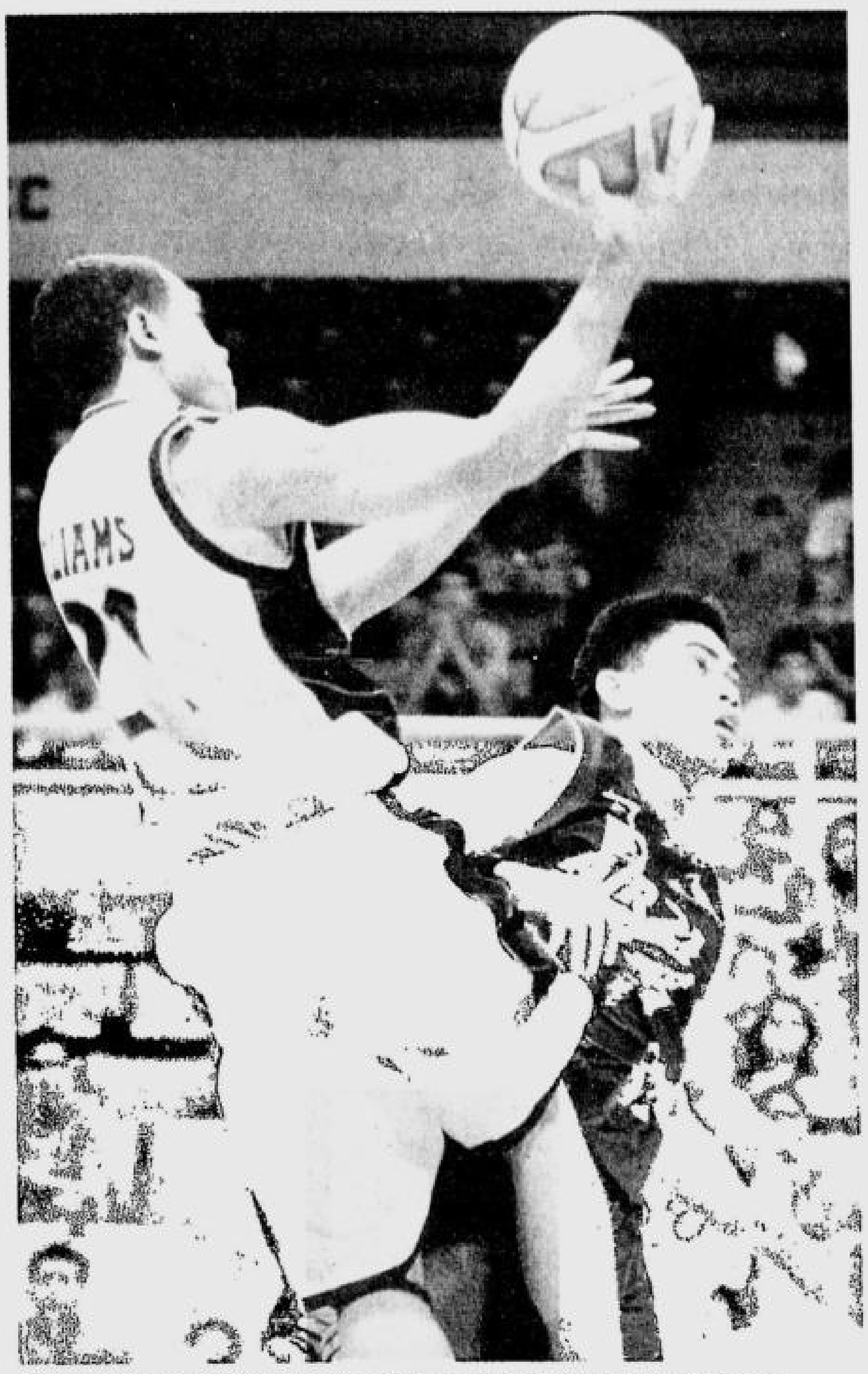
"I haven't decided yet," said Pacquiao of his next foe, his voice still hoarse after battling colds and cough recently.

World Boxing Council super featherweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez and World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation lightweight titlist Juan Diaz are hoping to fight Pacquiao on March 15 next year.

But the Filipino ring icon said he expects to announce his rival next month while pursuing the tack that he is "the draw" for the coming fight and not his titled foes.

Trainer Freddie Roach was quoted on the Internet as saying Pacquiao should be the one commanding the megabuck purse considering his string of box-office fights in Las Vegas and San Antonio the past three years.

Roach said he was given instructions by Pacquiao to pick "the fight that gets the most money and makes most sense."



STA. Lucia's Kelly Williams gets a shot off Air21's Ranidel de Ocampo in Wednesday's match won by the Realtors, 115-80. INQUIRER PHOTO/ RYAN LIM

P'foods seek No. 6 vs Coke

Giants out to extend best start

PUREFOODS IS NOT ABOUT TO REST on its laurels following a record-breaking start.

The unbeaten TJ Giants go for a sixth straight win when they take on the Coca-Cola Tigers tonight in the Smart-PBA Philippine Cup at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

"It's nice to be a part of the franchise's best start," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio, whose Giants nailed a fifth consecutive victory over the Barangay Ginebra Kings last week.

The Giants' 5-0 start is the best start for the franchise since the Purefoods team led by Alvin Patrimonio and Jerry Codinera won its first four games in the 1991 All-Filipino Conference.

"We're looking good. I just hope our hot start could translate into a championship," said Gregorio. "We're not even halfway through the first round of the conference."

Though James Yap and Kerby Raymundo have been leading the team in scoring, pivotman Rommel Adducul has contributed solidly for the remarkable start of the Giants.

"People don't seem to notice it but Rommel has been providing the big difference for the team," said Gregorio, who acquired the 6-foot-5 banger from the Magnolia Beverage Masters in the pre-season.

The Beverage Masters go up against the Alaska Aces earlier at 4:35 p.m. hoping to bounce back from a 100-94 defeat at the hands of the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals in an out-of-town sortie last week.

STANDINGS	W	L
Purefoods	5	0
Talk 'N Text	4	2
Magnolia	3	2
Alaska	3	2
Red Bull	3	2
Air21	2	3
Sta. Lucia	2	3
Coca-Cola	1	3
Welcoat	1	4
Ginebra	1	4

GAMES TODAY
(Ynares Center)
4:35 p.m.—Magnolia vs Alaska
7:20 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Purefoods

On a three-game streak, the Aces are coming off a hard victory over the Welcoat Dragons, a triumph that renewed Alaska coach Tim Cone's call to revisit the new set of rules.

"It wasn't pretty. At this point, Alaska has been pulling off the most number of ugly wins," said Cone, who lambasted game officials for letting go several physical contacts considered a foul.

The PBA Commissioner's Office promised to rectify the situation by thoroughly explaining to the coaches the new rules adopted from the International Basketball Federation or Fiba rule book.

Roughed up by the Air21 Express last weekend, the Tigers (1-3) are hoping to win the 7:20 p.m. contest to escape the ignominy of joining Barangay Ginebra and Welcoat (1-4) at the tailend of the standings.

June Navarro

Death of gymnastics' Saguisag stuns RP sports

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE SPORTS IS IN MOURNing following the tragic death of RP gymnastics' "work force" yesterday.

In the middle of preparations for the country's title-retention bid in the Southeast Asian Games next month, top officials of the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee grieved over the demise of Dulce Saguisag, secretary general of the Gymnastics Association of the Philippines.

The wife of former Sen. Rene Saguisag died from injuries sustained in a vehicular accident which also seriously hurt her husband and two others.

SAGUISAG: Big loss for gymnastics

But it was the gymnastics community which absorbed the biggest shock as Mrs. Saguisag was at the forefront of the country's preparations for the biennial SEAG set Dec. 6-16 in Thailand.

"It's tragic, it's too heavy for us," said national coach Sonny Ty, who had a spat with Saguisag early last month that triggered the resignation of his protege Roel Ramirez, the country's top gymnast.

Ty later gave up his post. In sympathy, several members of the national men's artistic team who are directly under Ty also quit.

But Saguisag's death, according to Ty, "makes you forget about everything, and remember only the contributions she made for the sport."

The coach said they will pay their last respects to Saguisag, who served the GAP from 2005, when the country won two gold medals courtesy of Ramirez.

Saguisag's daughter Kaissa, one of only three gymnasts who qualified for the SEAG, has decided, however, to compete despite the tragedy.

"The question now is how the association will go forward after this," said Ty, who was to meet with GAP officials and athletes with the SEAG just four weeks away.

PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez and POC chief Jose "Peping" Cojuangco also extended their condolences to the Saguisag family.

RP quintet spills ...

From page A27

very willing to help the RP team," said team manager Bernard Yang.

The Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas had requested the PBA's help in lending players like Talk 'N Text point guard Egay Billones, Magnolia guard Chris Calaguio and Air21 slotman Homer Se.

"They need help and we are very willing to cooperate," said PBA officer in charge Sonny Barrios. "But this is a two-way traffic, so I hope they could provide us with their plan of action starting in the year 2008 until 2012."

"When I face the board, I want to be armed with something which they will better appreciate," Barrios added in a statement. "I want to present them SBP-BAP's course of action in the next four years in black and white assuring us that the national team is in place and the best goals are attainable."

Aside from Norwood, the Harbour-RP team plans to tap Pharex mainstay Elmer Espiritu, Harbour point guard Al Vergara, San Beda's Ogie Menor and Toyota Balintawak's Eric Rodriguez.

The Nationals bucked the absence of ex-pro Alex Crisano to close out their campaign with back-to-back wins in the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Crisano served a one-game suspension for exceeding the allowed number of technical fouls, while Ateneo standout Chris Tiu suited up for the first time for the Nationals.

In the second game, Khiel Misa and Marcy Arellano powered Mail and More past Toyota Balintawak, 81-74, for its first win in four games.

The scores:
First Game

RP TEAM 88—Cruz 14, Belga 12, Bautista 11, Dela Cuesta 11, Cabahug 10, Alonzo 10, Tan 8, Salangsang 6, Castro 4, Chan 2, Tiu 0.

SAN MIG COFFEE 78—Magpayo 21, Dela Peña 19, Custodio 16, Rañeses 7, Arao 6, Saldua 3, Bolocon 2, Pascual 2, Del Rosario 2, Luanzon 0, Dalafu 0, Sorongon 0.

Quarters: 14-14, 45-37, 65-58, 88-78

Second Game

MAIL AND MORE 81—Misa 24, Arellano 18, Co 10, Gregorio 5, Bravo 5, Canlas 4, Baracael 4, Bonus 4, Ballesteros 4, White 3.

TOYOTA BALINTAWAK 74—Sta. Maria 20, Sena 16, Dedicatoria 10, Villanueva 10, Casio 5, Alcaraz 4, Hayes 3, Cole 2, Jaime 2, Rodriguez 2, Aldave 0, Balgos 0, Retaga 0, Walsham 0, Guerrero 0.

Quarters: 25-16, 42-40, 64-59, 81-74

CHAMPIONS CUP CAGING: Reynaldo D. Gamboa, Champions Cup League chair, and Chito Villavicencio, chair and founder of the Villavicencio group of companies, seal with a handshake their partnership in the holding of this year's tournament. Looking on (from left) are Filoil Flying V Sports CFO David Dualan, Filoil president Francisco Pasicolan, and Filoil Flying V Sports's Virgil Villavicencio.

'Payback' card features female ring announcer

PROMOTERS OF THE "PAYBACK" fight card featuring the return of Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista want to make sure their upcoming event will not only be a display of boxing machismo.

Third Force Promotions president Noli Eala has confirmed that the December battle will also feature American beauty Amy Hayes, acknowledged as pro boxing's first and most successful female ring announcer

"It's confirmed. She will be the card's ring announcer," said Eala.

"Payback" signals the comeback of Bautista after his shock loss at the hands of WBO superbantam champ Daniel Ponce De Leon last August.

Bautista will take on Mexican Antonio Meza in defense of his WBO Intercontinental superbantam crown on Dec. 2 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Hayes is the first woman announcer to do a world title fight. A certified looker who has graced the pages of Maxim and Playboy magazines, Hayes lives in Lexington.

HAYES: First woman to do a title fight.

Alaska Cup kicks off tomorrow at ACC

TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX FOOTball teams with total of about 4,000 players from all over the Philippines, as well as Guam, South Korea and Japan will take part in Alaska Cup 2007 tomorrow and on Sunday at the Alabang Country Club field.

Championships will be disputed in 13 age groups as well as in the men's and ladies Open during the football festival. The youngest category is for boys and girls 3 to 5 years old.

"This project seeks to provide all football enthusiasts the opportunity to foster sportsmanship in a competitive, safe and friendly environment and to promote youth football development," said Alaska Milk Corp. president and COO Wilfred Steven Uytengsu Jr.

The Alaska Football School and Makati Football Club, in coordination with the NCR Youth Football Clubs Association, NCR Football Association and Alabang Country Club, is organizing the event.

According to Joaqui Trillo, Alaska Sports Development manager and team manager of the Alaska Aces in the PBA, the Alaska Cup remains the country's biggest football event.

Gorres fights Darchinyan in US March 1

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

A FINAL ELIMINATOR FOR THE RIGHT TO challenge IBF super flyweight champ Dmitri Kirilov will take place when Filipino Z "The Dream" Gorres takes on the hard-punching Vic "Raging Bull" Darchinyan on March 1 in the United States.

Cebu sportsman Antonio L. Aldeguer, Gorres' chief handler, revealed in an interview yesterday at the ALA Gym that both Golden Boy Promotions and Gary Shaw Promotions have reached a deal ahead of the IBF-imposed deadline to pit Gorres against Darchinyan.

"The fight is on," said Aldeguer. "Both camps have agreed already. Gorres is agreeable with the deal."

The fight will be on the undercard of Israel Vasquez-Rafael Marquez tussle for the WBC super bantamweight title.

The Australia-based Darchinyan carries a record of 29 wins and one loss with 23 knockouts.

SPORTSWATCH

WBC's Sulaiman, Buhain today's Scoop guests

WORLD BOXING COUNCIL PRESIDENT Jose Sulaiman and Games and Amusement Board chair Eric Buhain are the featured guests in Friday's session of the Sports Communicators Organization of the Philippines (Scoop) Forum at the Manila Hotel.

Sulaiman and Buhain will discuss the country's hosting of the 45th WBC Convention slated Nov. 11-17.

The Accel-backed weekly program aired live over dzSR Sports Radio 918 starts at 10 a.m.

5th Rexona Cup karate up

THE 5TH REXONA KARATE INVITATIONal Cup will be held tomorrow at the Xavier School Sports Center, Greenhills, San Juan.

Events slated are age-group kata and kumite competitions for both novice and advanced participants.

The tournament accepts participants from all Karate Clubs accredited with the Philippine Karate Federation. Organized by the Karate Development Arts and Sports, the tournament is being supported by Unilever Philippines Inc.

BEST Center registration

BASKETBALL HOPEFULS HAVE ONLY until tomorrow to register for BEST Center's Saturday-only classes at Ateneo College covered courts and San Beda College in Mendiola, Manila.

Levels 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 will be conducted at Ateneo from 8 to 11:30 a.m. while level 1, 2, 3 and 4 sessions will be held at San Beda from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

BEST Center's basketball school has been going for 29 years now.

Battle of the Big Boys

THOUSANDS OF COCKFIGHT AFICIONAdos converge today at the Pasay City Cockpit when the second Battle of the Big Boys 7- stag derby gets underway with more than 100 fights.

Tonton Uy of Isabela (VL Solcag), who used Kelso black stags in winning the Battle of the Big Boys Part I last Aug. 31, faces a tough opposition this time, said pit managers Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano.

Strong challengers include Gerry Ramos and Firefly group.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Teery Toon (4), Caden Dance (5), Sir Benjo (1)

Race 2—(Tri)—Northstorm (3), Win Lance (5), Getting Better (2)

Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Alexis Magic (1), Softas (7), Regent Skipper (3), District three (6)

Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Golden Connection (2), Sutter's Royal (5), Henry D'Eight (1), Afternoon Delight (6)

Race 5—(Tri)—Jajie (1), Petro Dollar (4), Naman Naman (5)

Race 6—(Super 6/ Qrt/Tri)—Sports Illstrated (10), Kirsten (6), Mighty Mare (4), Rapid Fire (8), Big Spender (9), Kayang Kaya (2)

Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Wild Orchid (3), Armidale (2), Chariot of Fire (4), Hail A Star (6)

Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Anahita (2), On The Fairway (4), EJ Forever (5), Master Dancer (3)

Race 9—(Super 6/ Qrt/Tri)—Princess Ther Ther (9), Reign of Roses (5), Divine Diva (3), Scarlet Velvet (10), Ravishing Raffy (1), Winner Take All (8)

STANDINGS	W	L
SSC	5	0
UST	4	1
Ateneo	4	2
Adamson	3	3
FEU	2	3
La Salle	2	3
Lyceum	2	4
Letran	0	6

GAMES TODAY
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
3 p.m.—Far Eastern vs La Salle
5 p.m.—Lyceum vs Santo Tomas

Must-win for 3 Shakey's V-League teams today

THREE SQUADS FACE MUST-WIN SITUATIONS at the resumption of the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference today at The Arena in San Juan.

Far Eastern University and La Salle collide at 3 p.m. with the winner securing at least a playoff for one of the two remaining semifinal slots, which are also being contested by Adamson University and Lyceum.

In the 5 p.m. main game, Lyceum tries to avoid elimination when it faces semifinalist University of Santo Tomas.

Either FEU or La Salle would tie idle Adamson with a third victory in six games. In case of a La Salle win, its match against Adamson on Tuesday would be a virtual knockout match for an outright semifinal seat.

The defending champion Lady Archers are coming off a 25-23, 25-19, 25-20 win over arch rival Ateneo last Monday, with Maureen Penetrante and Jacqueline Alarca combining for 22 attacks and 30 points.

The win snapped the Lady Archers' two-game losing spell while allowing the Tigresses to overtake the Lady Eagles for second spot.

FEU is likewise on a two-game skid partly due to the ankle injury sustained by top player Rachel Anne Daquis during a 25-17, 11-25, 18-25, 9-25 loss to undefeated leader San Sebastian College, also last Monday.

Without Daquis, who ranks No. 9 in scoring with 69 points in five matches, team captain Wendy Semana, Josephine Cafranca, Irish Morada, Marigail Tolentino and guest player Mary Anne Manalo must double their efforts.

If the Lady Pirates win, they face a playoff match for the fifth and last semifinal seat. They dropped their first four games before winning the next two over La Salle and Letran.

The league's top two attackers, Mary Jean Balse and guest player Suzanne Roces, will spearhead the Tigresses while the Lady Pirates will count on Beverly Boto, Kathleen Jarin, Joana Marie Fernando, Bernadette Satsatin and guest player Estrelita Enriquez.

San Sebastian, UST and Ateneo have already qualified for the single-round carryover semifinals while Letran, still without a win after six starts, is out of the race.

UST will move half a game behind San Sebastian if it beats Lyceum. San Sebastian paces the eight-team field at 5-0. *Romina S. Austria*

Miñoza bounces back, shoots 69

SHANGHAI—FRANKIE MIÑOZA came back from the ignominy of missing the halfway cut last week by shooting a three-under-par 69 at the start of the $5 million HSBC Champions on Thursday.

The Filipino star, the winner of the ABC Championship in the Japan Tour two weeks ago, rallied with three birdies coming home to complete a 36-33 card that boosted him five strokes off joint leaders Niclas Fasth of Sweden and American Kevin Stadler.

Fasth, 35, and Stadler, with two international titles under his belt, were firmly at the top of the leaderboard, three strokes ahead of Fijian ace Vijay Singh, who carded a 67, at the Sheshan International Golf Club.

Star attraction Phil Mickelson of United States shot a 68 and tied for fourth with Korean star KJ Choi, US Open champion Angel Cabrera, British Open winner Padraig Harrington and four others, four strokes off the pace in the $5-million event.

Also with 68s were South Africans Andrew McLardy and Richard Sterne and the English duo of Paul Casey and Ross Fisher.

Cabrera won the Barclay's Singapore Open last week where Miñoza failed to qualify for the weekend play after shooting 73-76 in the first two rounds.

China's top golfer Liang Wenchong was the highest-ranked local talent in joint 12th place. He shot a 69 like Thailand's Chapchai Nirat, South Africa's Retief Goosen, England's Steve Webster, Australia's Breff Rumford and Scott Sterling, Argentina's Andres Romero and Austria's Marcus Brier.

MIÑOZA: Just five off the pace

Defending champion Yang Yong-eun of Korea shot a 71 and stood in 33rd spot in the event co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour, European Tour, Southern African Tour, Australasian Tour and China Golf Association.

Filipino Juvic Pagunsan, Chinese Taipei's Lin Wen-tang and American Jason Knutzon were also among those in joint 33rd spot.

Artemio Murakami, winner of the Johor Open and the only other Filipino in the exclusive field, was among the tailenders after submitting a horrendous 80.

With a birdie on the first and an eagle on the par-5 second hole, Fasth got off on the right note in the early stages of his round.

"I was playing well and putting well." said Fasth, who rallied on with six birdies against a lone bogey. "It's a great start to the tournament.

Stadler, with four wins on the US Nationwide Tour, is competing in his second HSBC Champions and enjoyed a comfortable day out on course.

"I got off to a very good start and birdied the first three," he said. "I never really was in the rough, I'm so happy to say that, and I drove it well."

Singh, third on the US Tour's money list, made the last of his six birdies on the the final hole.

"We need a lot more events like this in Asia where you can have Asian players feeling more and more comfortable playing with a field like this," he said. "But, you know, I'd like to pull it off and give the Asian world a little boost," added the Fijian stalwart.

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RP's Ignacio-Dungca tops Nicklaus T of C over Czechs

TEAM PHILIPpines' Joel Ignacio and Omar Dungca eagled the final hole to cap an impressive 8-under-par 64 and rule the recent Jack Nicklaus International Invitational golf tournament in Jupiter, Florida.

Ignacio and Dungca, playing out of Royal Northwoods in Bulacan, improved on the country's third-place showing in last year's tournament.

TEAM Philippines' Joel Ignacio (left) and Omar Dungca flank the Golden Bear, Jack Nicklaus, at the awards rite.

Billed as the JNII Tournament of Champions, the scramble-format event was played over 18 holes in The Bear's Club, Nicklaus' home course in Florida, and drew pairs from the United States, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, New Zealand and the Philippines.

Tied for the lead with the Czech team going into the last hole, Dungca landed a 7-wood second shot to within 2 feet of the hole on the 586-yard 18th's island green.

With Ignacio helping line the putt, Dungca then canned the eagle putt as the Filipinos beat the Czechs by two shots.

"I think that was the longest 2-foot putt in my life," said the 28-year-old Dungca. "I convinced myself to take the risk and hit it hard on my second shot. I never saw where the ball went until I heard the roar of the crowd on the 18th hole."

The Dungca-Ignacio pair bested the Czech with a 6-under card in the back nine after completing the first nine at 2-under. They also eagled the 12th hole.

The Czech settled for second with a 66 with the Indonesian pair bagging third place after a 69.

"It was an honor to represent the country," said the 47-year-old Ignacio, a dentist. "Winning this event is a once-in-a-lifetime achievement for an amateur like me."

Dungca and Ignacio earned the right to represent the country after beating more than 100 other pairs in the Philippine qualifier held at Tagaytay Highlands last June.

Golf legend Nicklaus personally welcomed the international cast at a dinner.

The annual tournament was sponsored by Jack Nicklaus apparel, manufacturer and distributor of high-performance sports and leisure wear for men and women.

Donaire to meet promoter in Manila

WORLD FLYWEIGHT KING NONITO DONaire Jr. is slated to fly to Manila on Wednesday to meet with his American promoter Gary Shaw, who will be attending the World Boxing Council annual world convention at the Manila Hotel.

Donaire, in an interview yesterday, indicated that his promoter is coming, and a meeting between him and his father and Shaw has been arranged by Solar Sports, which has reportedly clinched the television rights for his Dec. 1 defense against Mexican Luis Maldonado.

Aside from being Manny Pacquiao's former promoter, Shaw also promotes Vic Darchinyan, the brash Australian who was demolished by Donaire to claim the IBF and IBO titles. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL BATCH '87
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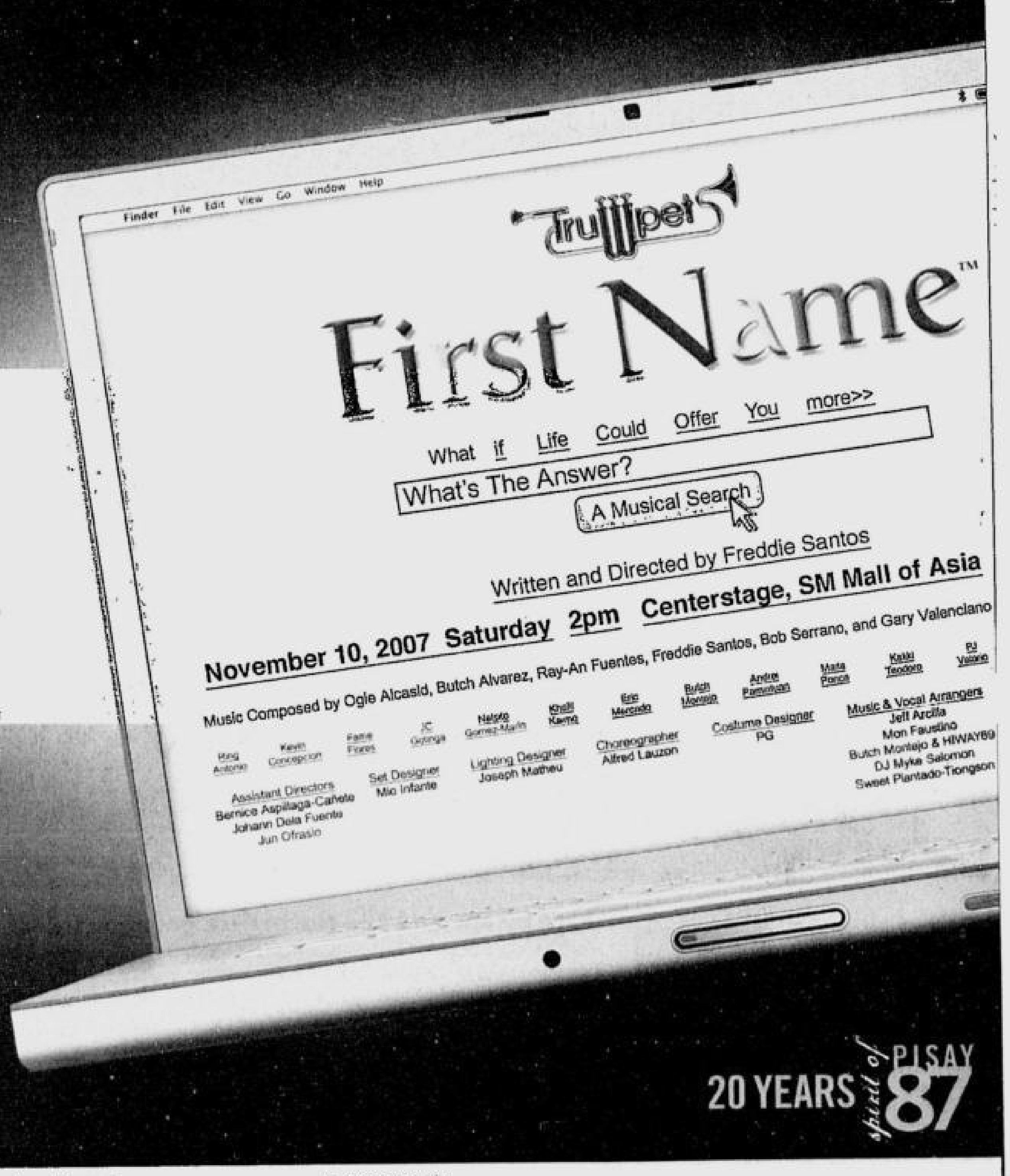

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SPORTS

Yi, Yao face each other for 1st time

HOUSTON, TEXAS—CHINESE TEAMmates Yi Jian Lian and Yao Ming will face each other for the first time in a National Basketball Association game Friday when the Milwaukee Bucks visit the Houston Rockets.

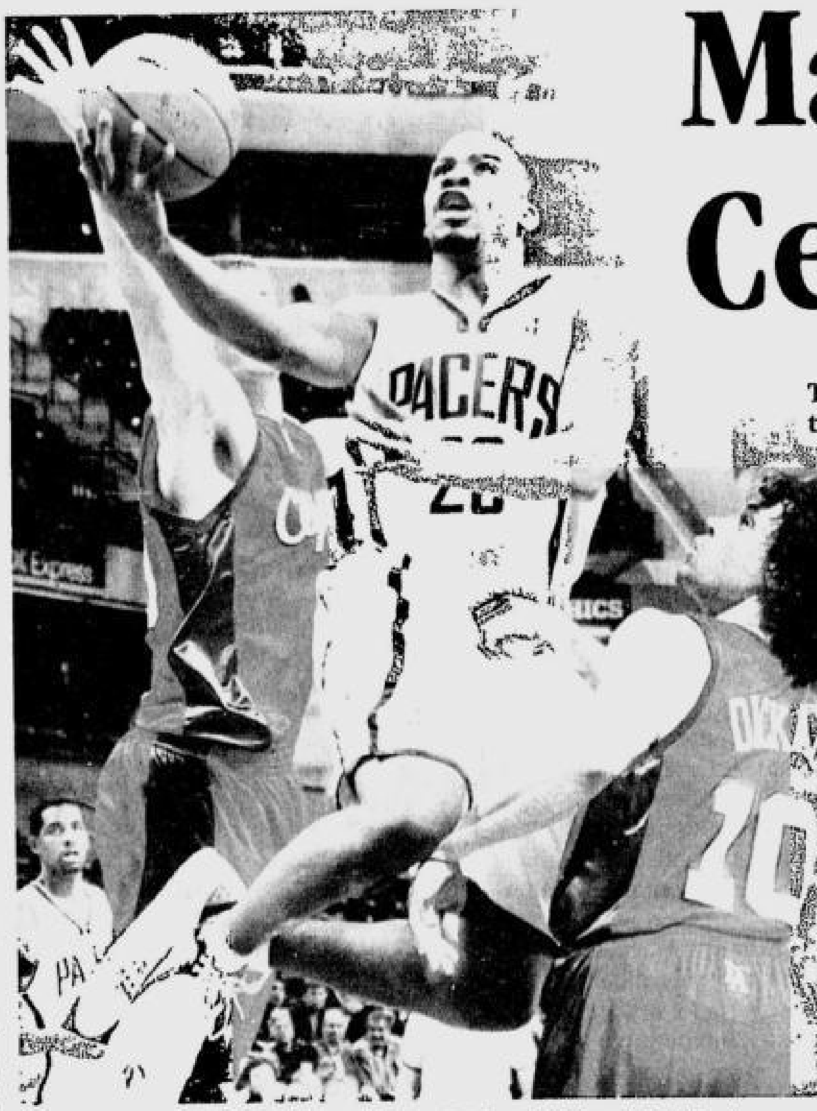
It is one of the most anticipated NBA games ever in Yi and Yao's homeland where an estimated 100 million or more are expected to watch the game on television.

"It will be big back home," Yi said. "It will be fun. People will be watching."

The two Chinese twin towers, who will be teammates at next summer's Beijing Olympics, are off to great starts in the 2007-08 regular season.

They both had superb games on Tuesday with Yao scoring 28 points and 13 rebounds in a Houston victory over San Antonio and Yi netting 12 points in a Bucks lopsided win over Toronto.

Yi, a rookie who is expected to develop into an all-star, and Yao come from different area of the world's most populous country. Yi hails from southern China's Shenzhen near Hong Kong while Yao grew up in Shanghai. *AFP*



THE Pacers' Andre Owens slips past Dan Dickau (right) and Paul Davis. AFP

Magic cast spell; Celts strike anew

THE ORLANDO MAGIC REGISTERED A third straight victory with a 105-96 win over the Toronto Raptors on Wednesday, Hedo Turkoglu leading the visitors with 24 points and a career-high 15 rebounds.

While Orlando improved to 4-1, the Raptors lost a third straight game to drop to 2-3 as their early season struggles continued.

The Magic led for most of the game but a late run by the Raptors gave them their only lead of the contest in the fourth quarter.

Andrea Bargnani's three-pointer with 3:56 left put the Raptors 92-91 ahead before the Magic reeled off eight straight points to take the lead for good, with Rashard Lewis and Jameer Nelson hitting back-to-back three-pointers.

Lewis added 24 points for the Magic, who shot 50 percent and out-rebounded the Raptors 51-41 as they continued their strong start to the season. Keith Bogans added 17 points and 11 rebounds while Dwight Howard also had 17 points for Orlando.

One night after scoring just one point, Chris Bosh led the Raptors with 26 points, including going 14-for-14 from the line. Bosh also hauled down 10 rebounds.

The Los Angeles Clippers won a battle of unbeaten teams as Sam Cassell scored 35 points in a 104-89 win over the Indiana Pacers. The Clippers are 4-0 while the Pacers fell to 3-1.

The Boston Celtics improved to 3-0 with a 119-92 win over the Denver Nuggets. Kevin Garnett had 23 points and 13 rebounds for the Celtics.

The San Antonio Spurs improved to 4-1 with an 88-78 win over the winless Miami Heat (0-4).

The Atlanta Hawks stunned the Suns 105-96, despite 34 points and 11 assists from Phoenix's Steve Nash.

Andre Iguodala scored 19 points and the Philadelphia 76ers defense smothered the Charlotte Bobcats 94-63. *Reuters*

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Henin gains WTA Championships semis

MADRID—WORLD NUMBER ONE JUSTINE Henin qualified for the WTA Championships semifinals with an easier-than-expected 6-2, 6-2 win over Serb Jelena Jankovic on Wednesday.

The Belgian's second straight sets win in the yellow group of the end-of-season tournament had put her on the brink of the last four and she qualified when American Serena Williams retired injured from her opening match against Anna Chakvetadze.

The 20-year-old Russian was leading 6-4 after a topsy-turvy first set when Williams stopped with a problem in her left knee, putting her participation in the rest of the event in doubt.

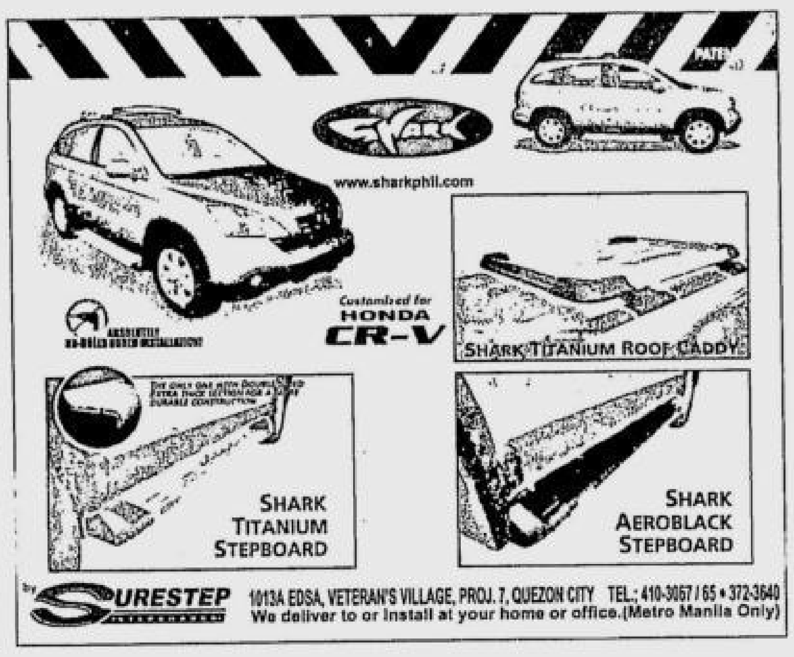
The former world number one had looked short on mobility throughout, and was visibly suffering after having a lengthy medical break with the score at 5-4.

Williams was having a scan later on Wednesday but does not have to decide whether to continue in the championships until just before her next match. Marion Bartoli of France is on standby to step in if the American drops out.

HENIN AFP

In the red group, Serbia's Ana Ivanovic, who edged Svetlana Kuznetsova on Tuesday, moved a step closer to the last four beating Slovak Daniela Hantuchova 6-2, 7-6.

Henin, who beat Chakvetadze 6-1, 7-6 on Tuesday, took control early on against Jankovic, breaking the world number three's serve three times in an error-strewn first set from both players. *Reuters*



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Federer favored to rule Masters

SHANGHAI—ALready immortalized as a terra cotta warrior, Roger Federer will be confident he can repel raiders plotting his downfall at the Tennis Masters Cup.

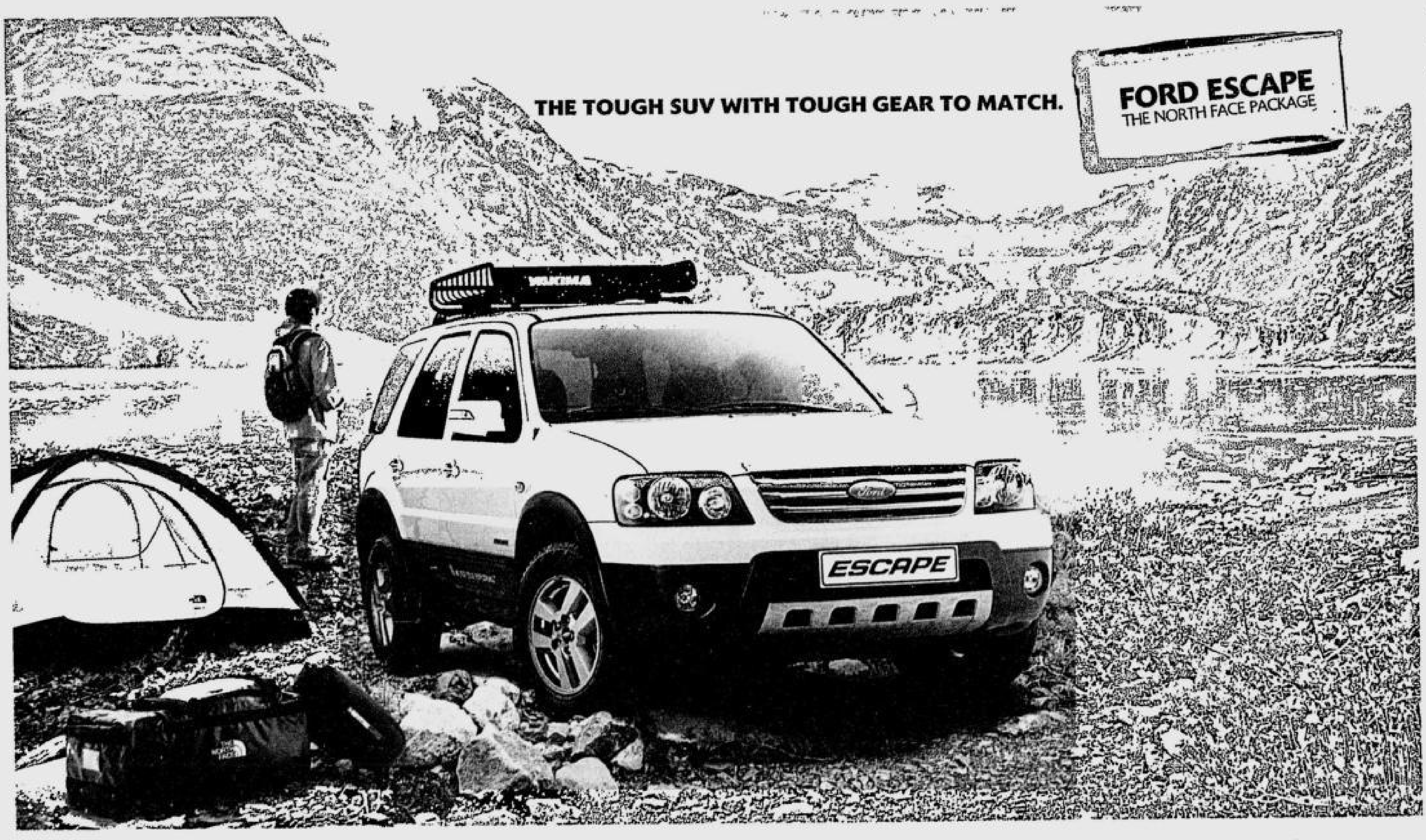
Few among the eight players involved in the season-ending event, which begins in Shanghai on Sunday, possess the weapons to pierce Federer's armor on a consistent basis.

The world number one's hopes of a fourth Masters Cup title in the last five years were boosted further when he was handed a seemingly uncomplicated draw.

The Swiss got drawn with Andy Roddick, Nikolay Davydenko and Fernando Gonzalez in the Red Group.

World number two Rafael Nadal will face Serbian Novak Djokovic, Frenchman Richard Gasquet and fellow Spaniard David Ferrer in the Gold Group.

Federer is unlikely to face much resistance in the round-robin stages, having compiled a combined 34-win, 1-loss record against his three rivals. *Reuters*



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SMC to let go of Aussie assets to raise $2.9B

Beverage firm took divestment tack to fuel acquisitions in power sector

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SAN MIGUEL CORP., SOUTHeast Asia's largest food and beverage firm, yesterday announced its plan to let go of its Australian investments in dairy, juice and beer in order to beef up its war chest by roughly $2.9 billion.

San Miguel is selling its entire stake in Australian dairy giant National Foods Ltd. to Japanese conglomerate and partner Kirin Holdings Co. Ltd. for $2.6 billion (Australian $2.8 billion), Kirin said in a statement in Tokyo yesterday.

Kirin has a 19.9-percent stake in San Miguel.

In a separate disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, San Miguel said it has signed an agreement to sell its Tasmanian brewer J. Boag & Son to listed Australian alcoholic beverages firm Lion Nathan Ltd. for roughly $300 million (A$325 million).

Kirin also owns 46 percent of Lion Nathan.

Sources familiar with the company's activities estimated that San Miguel spent about $1.6 billion in acquiring National Foods, including juice firm Berri. It also spent roughly $54 million for J Boag.

San Miguel took the divestment tack to raise fresh funds for its planned foray into the power sector.

According to San Miguel president Ramon S. Ang, the conglomerate is now reviewing its priorities to include new businesses with higher profit margins.

"While Boag's is an excellent business with strong brands, San Miguel is in a process of redefining itself and injecting into [its] operations a higher return-on-investment focused discipline," Ang said in a statement. "We are reassessing our priorities and reshaping our portfolio to include new businesses that we feel will give us higher margin growth in the near- and medium-term."

San Miguel, through subsidiary San Miguel Energy Corp., is bidding for the 25-year concession of electricity grid operator National Transmission Corp. with US private equity firm Texas Pacific Group (TPG) and Malaysian utility firm Tenaga Nasional Berhad.

It is also eyeing the government's 60-percent stake in geothermal power producer

SMC TO/ B5

ON THE WAY TO A FORUM
Nestor Tan (left), president and director of Banco de Oro, approaches BDO chair Teresita Sy (right), before the start of an investors forum at the Edsa Shangri-La in Mandaluyong City. BDO recently initiated a public offering to raise P5 billion. RUDY ESPERAS

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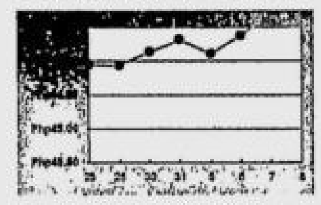

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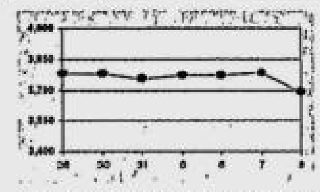
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 7, 2007

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares close 2.5% lower

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 2.5 percent lower—its worst finish in almost three weeks—due to the sharp plunge on Wall Street and higher oil prices.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index tumbled 96.16 points to 3,692.10, while the broader All Shares market dropped 53.83 points or 2.3 percent to 2,291.23.

There were 111 decliners and only 12 gainers, while 34 stocks were unchanged. Volume reached 3.2 billion shares worth P4.5 billion ($103.67 million).

Investors fretted over the condition of the US economy, the biggest market for Asian goods, given the subprime mortgage crisis.

SHARES/ B0

BSP takes more cautious stance on RP oil prospects

ALTHOUGH THE BANGKO SENtral ng Pilipinas expects soaring global oil prices to remain manageable this year, it turns more cautious over the country's oil prospects for next year.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said that, while supply shocks could not be remedied by monetary policy, the BSP would closely monitor risks and prepare to act if needed.

"For 2007, I think it will be broadly in line with our assumptions," Guinigundo said. "The inflation pressure (from oil prices), it's already considered. But for 2008, that's something we need to monitor closely."

Oil prices based on US futures are now trading at historic highs and nearing the $100 barrel.

In the past, Guinigundo said, the BSP did not tighten monetary policy even when oil prices were sharply rising.

"We didn't do anything because we knew it wouldn't be effective," Guinigundo said.

He said only two factors could trigger action from the BSP:

- If the oil prices trigger second round effects, or changes in wages and price settings in the real economy; and,
- If rising oil prices lead to a situation where businesses and consumers expect a sharply different outlook on inflation compared to the forecasts of the central bank.

BSP TURNS/ B5

IN THIS ISSUE

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SMC 9-mo income up 15% /B4

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Wall Street slide causes peso to shed some gains

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY SHED some of its gains in recent days following a significant decline in Wall Street trading overnight.

The local currency yesterday closed at 43.305 to the US dollar. It reached an intra-day low of 43.60 before it was buoyed up by strong remittances ahead of the Christmas season, as well as expectations of more foreign inflows to the local stock market.

The peso, which has been posting multi-year highs this week, gave up 3 centavos from Wednesday's finish of 43.275.

"There was a knee-jerk reaction to what happened to the US stock market at the opening," said Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. senior vice president Marcelo Ayes.

The Dow Jones industrial average in the United States fell by 2.6 percent on a string of negative news about the beleaguered US property sector.

It was also reported that New York's attorney general would investigate housing loans, while analysts warned that the property downturn could drag on to next year.

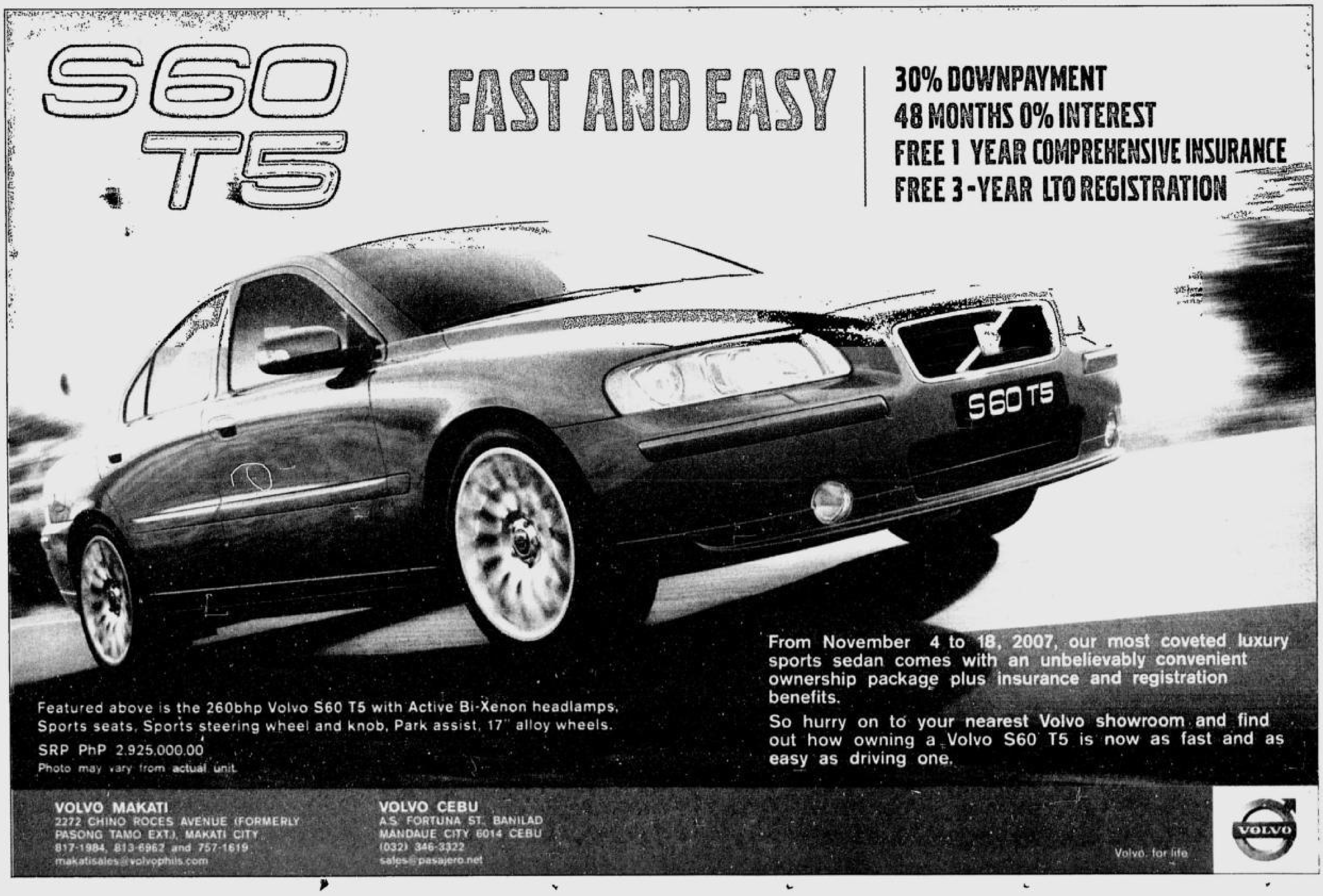
But Ayes said expectations of more foreign inflows, following San Miguel Corp.'s announcement of the sale of its stake in Australia's National Foods, offset the bad tidings from Wall Street.

Ayes said expectations of more foreign inflows, such as from the privatization of geothermal producer PNOC Energy Development Corp. and the initial public offerings in the pipeline, also tempered the peso's decline.

He said the US dollar would likely find support next at 42.90, while resistance would be at 43.50.

Meanwhile, the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) yesterday reported that in the past few

WALL STREET/ B5



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BCDA picks interim SCTEx operator

Contract good for six months to one year starting early 2008

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT Authority yesterday said it had awarded to a group, which included First Philippine Holdings Corp., the interim contract to operate and maintain the P21-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway.

The contract provides that FPHC and joint venture partners Egis Road Operation and Tollways Management Corp. will take charge of the SCTEx for six months up to a year starting from the expressway's opening in early 2008.

The BCDA said a third bidding for the long-term O&M contract would be held next year.

In September, BCDA president and chief executive Narciso L. Abaya said the agency was negotiating with at least three possible interim operators of the SCTEx after two attempts to bid out a 10-year contract failed.

Abaya said the BCDA was expecting to open within the year SCTEx's Package 2, which is the 43.27-kilometer Clark-Tarlac leg.

The other section is the 50-km Subic-Clark leg which, like Package 2, is expected to cut travel time along the two stretches from at least two hours to about half an hour.

Construction work continued to be hounded by delays, with the Japanese contractors seeking extension of the deadlines for the completion of both sections.

Package 2 is supposed to be finished by October, but contractor Hazama-Taisei-Nippon Steel (HTN) Joint Venture asked for a second extension of 54 days. This section was originally scheduled for completion in August 2007.

As for Package 1, contractor Kajima-Obayashi-JFE Engineering-Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Joint Venture (KOJM-JV) has asked for a four-month extension, which means this section will only be completed by March 2008.

Abaya said the second bidding for the 10-year contract failed because the two bidders had set the prices at levels above the ceiling set by the BCDA.

The BCDA had set a ceiling of a 12.2-percent operator's share in the toll fees collected during the 10-year contract period.

BCDA bankrolled the construction of the project through a P21-billion loan from the government of Japan through the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

ACS' 6TH CALL CENTER FACILITY

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo poses for the camera with the management committee members of Advance Contact Solutions led by (extreme left) company president and GM Victor M. Endaya at the opening of the sixth call center facility of ACS at the Araneta Complex in Cubao.

Further cut in BSP policy rates seen

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS IS expected to cut by another 25 basis points its key policy rates when the Monetary Board meets on Nov. 15.

This was according to investment bank UBS, which said the benign inflation had given the central bank some room to expand monetary policy and further support economic growth.

The BSP's overnight borrowing and lending rates stand at 5.75 and 7.75 percent, respectively. The rates were at 6 and 8 percent prior to the rate cuts in October.

The research unit of UBS took note of the central bank's confidence that the average inflation rate for the year would be at between 2.6 and 3.1 percent, while that for next year would reach 3-4 percent.

The forecast for the year is lower than the official target of 4-5 percent, while the projection for 2008 was at the lower end of the 3-5-percent target.

UBS said the restrained growth in consumer prices did not give any reason for the BSP to tighten monetary policy. "The central bank also highlighted that the strength of the peso was offsetting price pressures from major food, nonfood and fuel items ... The peso has risen 2.8 percent against the US dollar since the last BSP policy meeting which should further encourage the BSP to lower policy rates," UBS Investment Research said in the paper "Philippines: BSP Cut in November Could be the Last for a While."

Despite the rising oil prices, inflation remained benign because of the strong peso, which has broken into the 43-to-the-dollar level.

First Gen Jan.-Sept. profit up 50% to $100M

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOPEZ-OWNED FIRST GEN Corp. registered a 50-percent rise in net income to $100 million in the first three quarters from year-ago, driven mainly by earnings from the 112-megawatt (MW) Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower facilities.

"Our financial and operating results for year-to-date 2007 have been exceptional due mostly to the Pantabangan-Masiway plants and the high dispatch of the gas plants," First Gen vice chair and chief executive Peter Garrucho Jr. said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

He said the Pantabangan-Masiway facilities contributed $23.6 million to total earnings in the nine-month period.

The 1,000-MW Sta. Rita and 500-MW San Lorenzo gas-fired power plants enjoyed high dispatch levels of 79 percent and 90 percent, respectively, he said. Both plants posted the highest dispatch rates in Luzon in the period.

First Gen's 225-MW Bauang bunker-fired power plant also produced "consistent" financial and operating results, he said.

Garrucho said the rise in earnings was helped by nonrecurring gains of about $7 million.

In January to September, First Gen posted $800 million in electricity sales, 8 percent higher than year-ago level.

First Gen said interest savings due to debt prepayment bolstered its profits during the period.

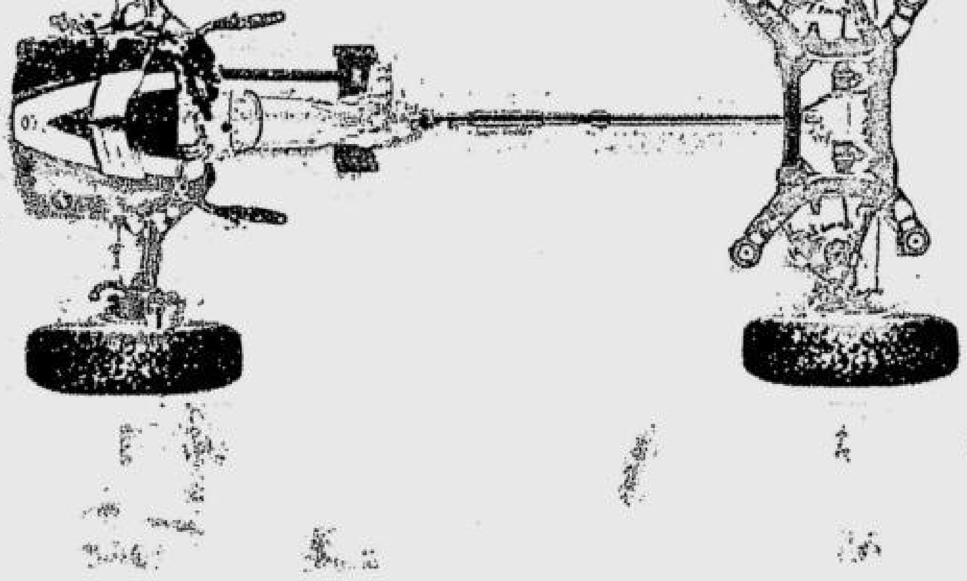
The company cut consolidated liabilities by $90 million in the first three quarters, despite $77 million in new borrowing from Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. for the acquisition of the Pantabangan-Masiway plants.

In an earlier interview, First Gen chief finance officer Francis Giles Puno said the company would tap the debt markets again next year, after paying down $480 million in debt since 2000.

He said the company was now in talks with at least four overseas banks and would likely take out loans by the first of the second quarter of 2008.

"We're looking at dollar bonds, loans and probably peso bonds. We have an option next year to refinance P5 billion in peso bonds, which will mature in 2010. We can either refinance that or just extend it to final maturity," he said.

As of December 2006, First Gen's consolidated debt stood at $725 million. This had gone down to $610 million in the first half of this year, and would likely be further reduced to $568 million by the end of the year.



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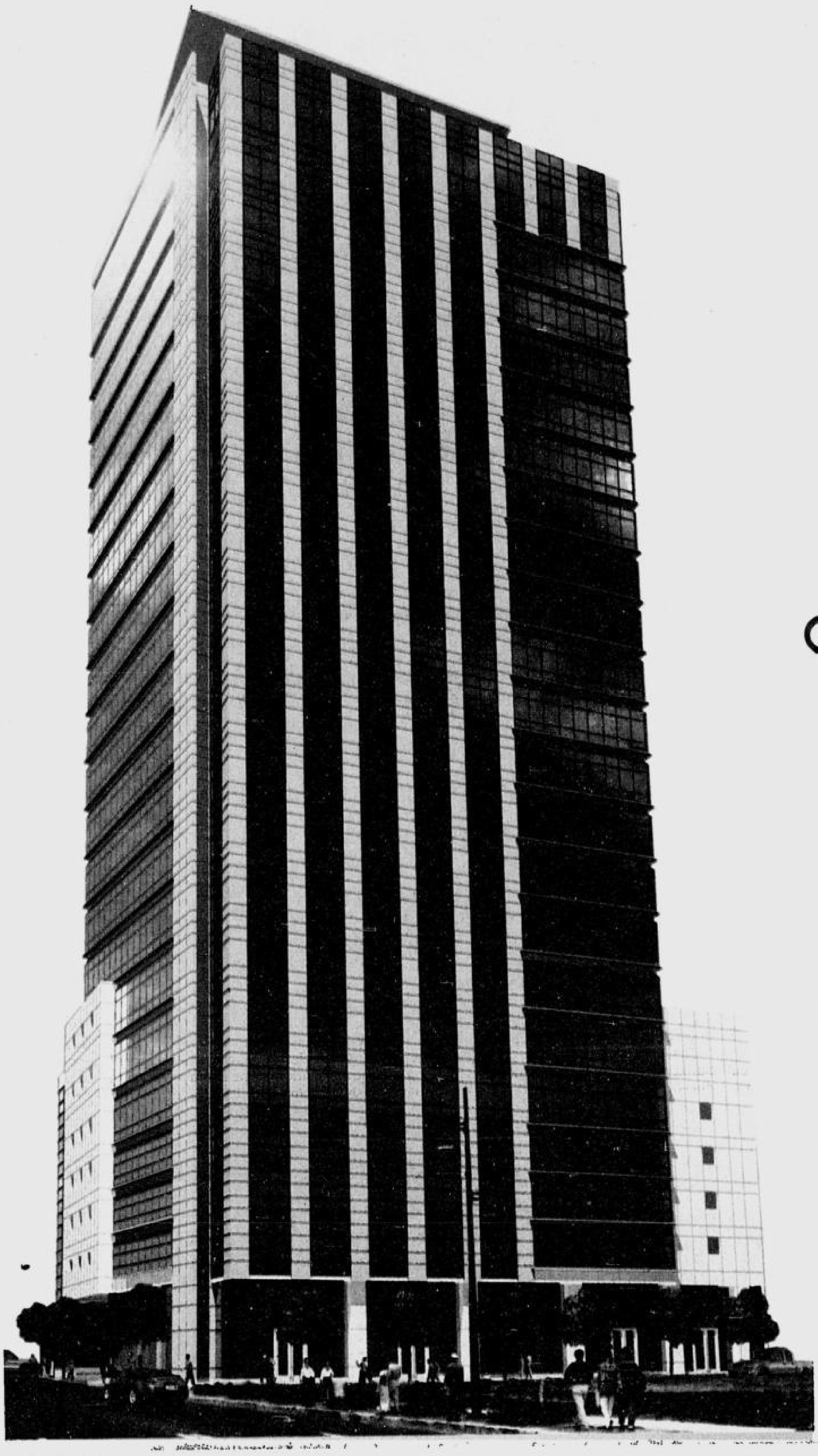

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MAR-NOL
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PROJECT TEAM

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Syndicated Architects

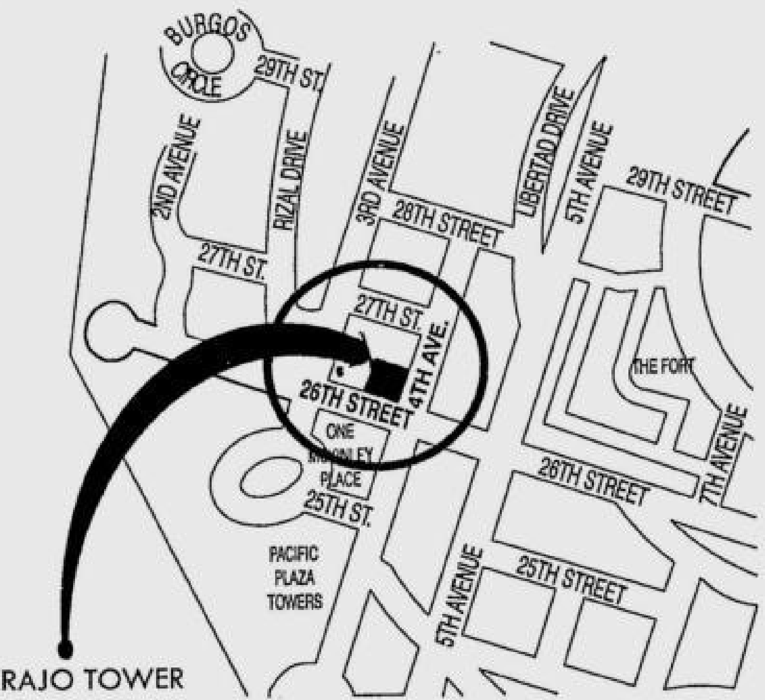
Interior Designer:
Angelita Bondoc Flores

Project Manager/Quality Surveyor:
Asian Technicon Managers
& Consultants, Inc.

MEP&F:
DCCD Engineering Corporation

Structural Engineer:
Aromin & Sy + Associates

General Contractor:
DDT Konstruct, Inc.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VICINITY MAP

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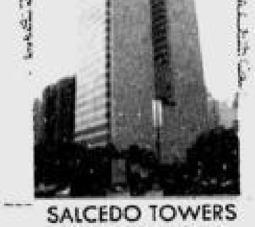

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Salcedo Village, Makati City
Architect: Gerardo R. Flores

NOL TOWER
Commerce Avenue Madrigal Business Park
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Architect: Gerardo R. Flores

LIBRAN HOUSE
144 Legaspi St. Cor. Herrera & Bolaños Sts.
Legaspi Village Makati City
Architect: Jaime C. Marquez

CEO SUITES
72 Jupiter Street, Bel-Air Village
Makati City
Architect: Jaime C. Marquez

SMC 9-mo income up 15%

Shares …

From page B1

"It's plain and simple—the big drop on Wall Street is enough to make investors stay out of the game for a while," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities.

Also, the local bourse's performance reflected the 360-point loss on the US Dow Jones Industrial Average Wednesday, and similar slides throughout Asian markets yesterday.

"The ghost of the credit crisis continues to haunt us," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

But according to Edgar Bancod, head of research at ATR Kim Eng Securities, "a lot of the write-downs seemed larger than expected."

He said that, "while this may have no direct impact on the Philippines, we're still affected (indirectly) because of poor (investor) sentiment in the short-term.

"Domestically, we're still in good shape in terms of the economy and corporate earnings. Oil prices may be nearing $100 (a barrel) but the strength of the peso is offsetting that due to weakness of US dollar and seasonal inflows of remittances during Christmas." *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson, AFP*

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SAN MIGUEL CORP. YESTERDAY reported that its consolidated net income for the nine-month period ending on Sept. 30 had grown 15 percent to P7.07 billion.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange, San Miguel said this included a final gain of P870 million from the sale of Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils. Inc. (CCBPI). It had also deducted consolidated debt or financing charges worth P4.73 billion for the period.

Consolidated sales revenue reached P170 billion—8 percent higher than last year.

Beer, hard liquor and domestic food businesses continued to show encouraging results, while Australian dairy firm National Foods continued to feel the impact on margins of the dry spell in Australia.

Consolidated operating income amounted to P12.3 billion, 14 percent lower than last year. But it was an improvement from the first quarter drop of 24 percent, and the first semester's shortfall of 19 percent. This is mainly due to the much lower than expected operating income performance of National Foods, which had been hit by high costs of dairy raw materials and imported juice concentrates amid a tight supply due to a prolonged drought.

For the seventh straight month, the domestic beer business recorded volume and revenue growth, respectively registering 6 percent and 7 percent increases in the nine months to 2007.

Lower cost of raw materials effectively complemented internal cost-management measures that resulted in a 31-percent increase in operating income.

International beer operations sustained its profitability for the fourth consecutive month, driven by robust North and South China operations. Sales revenue ended 8 percent higher. The operating income of $4.3 million was a turnaround from last year's operating loss.

Ginebra San Miguel Inc.'s nine-month volume grew 6 percent year-on-year driven by domestic liquor sales and exports. Revenue came in at P9.5 billion—2 percent better than in 2006.

The San Miguel Food Group's revenue for the first nine months of 2007 went up by 7 percent to P43.5 billion. In the third quarter alone, sales rose 8 percent.

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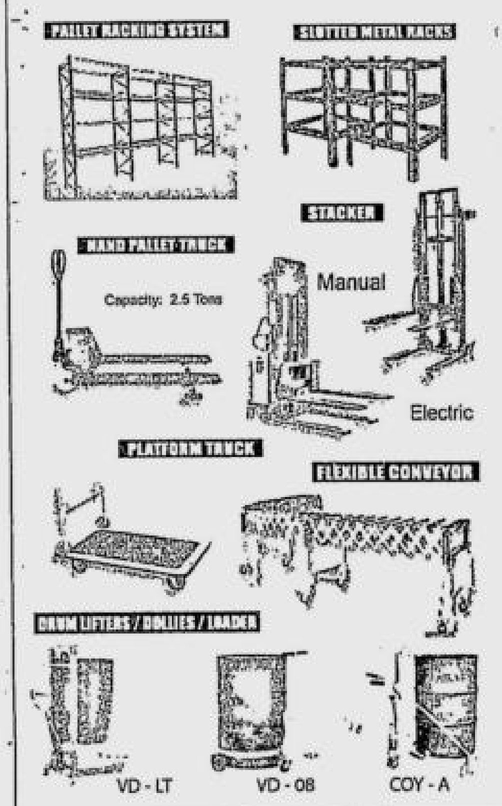

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 8, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.8	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	9	9	8.3	8.3	6,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	60	60	58.5	59	1,715,900
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	66.5	67.5	66	66.5	885,700
748	540	China Banking Corp.	695	695	690	690	2,790
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
75.5	47.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	60.5	60.5	59	59.5	4,027,500
65.5	35.5	Philippine National Bank	46	46	45	46	480,300
39.57	18.04	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	26	26.5	25.5	26	2,099,300
90	61	Security Bank Corp.	76	76	75.5	75.5	24,700
66	46.48	Union Bank of the Philippines	49	49	48	48.5	146,400
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.98	2	1.96	1.98	1,531,000
16.25	4.45	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	13.5	13.5	13	13.25	1,871,400
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	100,000
42.5	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	41	42	41	42	1,000
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc.	5.1	5.1	5	5.1	812,000
1,970.00	1,580.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,970.00	1,970.00	1,970.00	1,970.00	670
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.25	3.25	3.15	3.15	3,742,000
3.1	1.28	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	50,000
1,390.00	241	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,280.00	1,280.00	1,245.00	1,245.00	7,550
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.52	1.52	11,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.3	1,751,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	60	60.5	59	60.5	1,421,200
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	84	84	82.5	82.5	630,200
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	17	17	16.75	17	9,225,100
105.45	24.09	Manila Electric Co.	80.5	81.5	80	80.5	1,750,300
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.4	7.4	7.1	7.2	9,011,000
7.4	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.7	8,326,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	127,000
2.5	1.7	Salcon Power Corp.	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.46	15,000
2.3	1	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.88	1.92	1.82	1.86	4,927,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.1	80,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.86	1.88	1.84	1.86	318,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25	25	25	25	10,000
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	49.5	50	49	49	546,400
27	20	Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	26	26	26	26	12,000
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71	310,000
3.7	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.65	2.7	2.65	2.65	200,000
80	55	San Miguel Corp. "A"	56	56	55	55	114,300
88	57	San Miguel Corp. "B"	58	58	58	58	180,900
0.66	0.31	Swift Foods Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	50,000
20.75	13.75	Universal Robina Corp.	14.5	14.75	14.25	14.5	6,311,900
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	560,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.64	EEI Corp.	5.3	5.3	5	5.3	2,106,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.2	886,000
7	2.85	Republic Cement Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	287,000
2	0.56	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	4,564,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.5	4.55	4.5	4.5	1,274,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc.	0.39	0.41	0.38	0.4	20,850,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.4	3.45	3.35	3.4	542,000
0.185	0.045	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.155	321,910,000
1.28	0.24	APC Group Inc.	0.69	0.7	0.68	0.69	3,930,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.75	2.8	2.7	2.8	480,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.85	3	2.8	2.95	194,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	49,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	13,000,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	780,000
0.021	0.008	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	44,400,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	9,206,000
1.38	0.54	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	70,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.3	2.36	2.3	2.36	2,752,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	1,000
645	397.92	Ayala Corp.	610	610	580	590	1,113,050
15.25	7.39	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	14.75	14.75	14.25	14.25	16,800
5.8	1.46	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	3,517,000
12	4.7	DMCI Holdings Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.25	1,733,600
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4	4.4	4	4.4	113,000
2.5	0.8	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	90,000
1.84	1	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "B"	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	20,000
8	2.65	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.4	6.7	6.3	6.7	688,000
3.55	1.54	House of Investments, Inc.	2	2	1.98	1.98	465,000
14.5	7.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11	11.25	11	11.25	24,100
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	4,000
0.95	0.28	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	150,000
11.5	1.48	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.3	2,010,000
8.5	2.95	PAL Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	80,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.21	0.22	0.205	0.21	170,060,000
0.75	0.185	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	2,880,000
452.5	268.53	SM Investments Corp.	380	380	370	372.5	251,800
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	20,000
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.38	0.38	10,590,000
1.06	0.61	Solid Group Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.74	0.74	250,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.54	1.54	281,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.34	0.36	0.33	0.34	1,070,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc	1.6	1.64	1.58	1.6	692,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.7	22,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	15.5	15.75	15.5	15.75	12,873,300
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.34	1,184,000
4.7	2.9	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.05	4.05	3.95	3.95	906,000
2.7	1.2	Cityland Development Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	30,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	8,270,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.4	4,570,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.76	0.77	9,660,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	16,160,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1	1	0.98	0.99	19,623,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.72	36,374,000
0.5	0.12	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	50,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.58	0.6	0.57	0.6	920,000
4.6	1.85	Megaworld Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.2	35,466,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	5.1	5.3	5	5.1	632,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.49	3,690,000
23	14.5	Robinson Land Corp.	20.25	20.25	19.75	20	2,219,100
5.9	1.7	SM Development Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.15	4.2	1,245,000
13.5	7.44	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.5	11	11.25	5,024,700
3.25	1.4	Shang Properties Inc.	2.2	2.26	2.2	2.22	16,000
4.5	0.38	Sta. Lucia Land Inc.	2.75	2.8	2.55	2.6	4,432,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	350,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.29	5,440,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5	5.2	4.9	5	2,040,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33.5	34	33	34	126,600
11.75	8	GMA Network Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.2	8.3	299,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.44	795,000
1,750.00	1,180.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,690.00	1,690.00	92,040
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,045.00	3,045.00	2,975.00	2,985.00	208,940
8.1	5.4	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.4	7.6	7.3	7.6	2,947,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	300,000
12	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9	9	8.9	8.9	201,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.7	8.7	8.4	8.5	1,883,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.041	0.042	0.041	0.042	19,200,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	161,000
0.32	0.044	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.185	4,360,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.3	299,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	10,000,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.9	3	2.9	3	1,141,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	4	4	4	4	100,000
42.5	18.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	40.5	41	40.5	41	1,373,600
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2	2	2	2	212,000
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	4,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3	3	2.75	2.75	31,000
0.98	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.83	0.84	0.79	0.82	9,830,000
1.2	0.54	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.81	550,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.2	[illegible]
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	2	Macroasia Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	435,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.5	12	11.5	11.75	479,700
30	8.9	Paxys Inc.	9.5	9.5	8.9	9.1	1,201,000
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	131,100,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	6.3	6.6	6.2	6.6	2,589,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	6.3	6.7	6.3	6.6	1,936,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.5	15.5	15	15.25	1,442,200
12.5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	10.75	12.5	10.75	12.5	6,067,600
3.1	0.6	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	2.36	2.4	2.28	2.34	86,352,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.026	0.028	0.026	0.027	477,600,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.029	0.032	0.029	0.03	366,200,000
30	2	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	24.25	25.5	24	25	3,317,300
0.021	0.0083	Omico Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	445,700,000
11.25	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	10.5	10.75	10.25	10.5	18,683,900
47	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	44	47	44	47	677,700
1.36	0.47	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.85	0.86	0.83	0.83	660,000
1.8	0.69	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	380,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	2,310,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.025	326,600,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.027	74,200,000
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.75	11	10.5	10.5	49,000
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.029	0.03	0.029	0.029	245,000,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	936.43 DOWN	18.77	17,515,510	541,482,160.00
Industrial	4,539.91 DOWN	75.27	75,844,300	749,301,085.00
Holding Firms	2,136.82 DOWN	101.20	641,692,350	960,639,835.00
Property	1,665.05 DOWN	42.72	171,889,100	592,884,055.00
Service	1,818.81 DOWN	35.94	56,291,810	976,788,406.01
Mining & Oil	8,423.67 DOWN	95.40	2,190,864,700	684,750,795.00
All Shares Index	2,291.23 DOWN	53.83		
PSEi	3,692.10 DOWN	96.16		
		GRAND TOTALS	3,154,097,770	4,505,846,336.01

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

Real estate as equity

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

CYNICS AND SKEPTICS ASIDE, it looks like the country is going through a mild construction boom.

The heavy inflow of remittances from overseas Filipino workers is fueling real estate development in Metro Manila and other highly urbanized cities and provinces.

Huge tracts of land that are unsuitable for agricultural purposes, and would otherwise be idle and unproductive, have become choice spots for low- and middle-income housing projects.

Developers are on the lookout for real property in densely populated areas that can be used as sites for high-rise residential or office condominium buildings.

For lot owners who do not want to sell their properties for one reason or another, but want to earn from them, enterprising developers offer joint venture arrangements.

Under this scheme, the owner and developer organize a real estate company with the former contributing his property as equity and the latter putting in the money to pay for the construction costs.

Consideration

The proceeds from the operation of the completed structure are shared by the parties in such proportion as they may agree upon.

For obvious reasons, money is the preferred consideration for shares of stocks in stock and non-stock corporations.

Materials with monetary value—such as land, cars and machines—can be used as payment for stocks as long as these items are necessary and beneficial for the accomplishment of the purposes of the corporation.

Thus, a corporation formed to engage in the sale and distribution of school supplies cannot use sugar land as consideration for its stocks. That kind of property is not essential to the operation of its business.

But if the corporation's objective is the production and sale of candies and beverages, the sugar land is a valid consideration for its stocks. The extracts from sugarcane fit into the corporation's product line.

For corporations engaged in real estate development, land is a very important resource.

When real property is contributed as equity, the principal issue to be resolved is what monetary value to give it for purposes of determining its sufficiency as consideration for the stocks it represents.

Its size and location is material in that assessment. Also useful in the evaluation is the zonal valuation rating by the regional office of the Bureau of Internal Revenue that covers the community where the property is located.

Valuation

The rule of the thumb is, the valuation by the board of directors of real property brought in as equity of a corporation is given full faith and credit by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The SEC gives the assessment the presumption of accuracy and regularity. It does not, unless for justifiable reasons, question the manner by which it was arrived at.

After all, the directors are in the best position to determine the value of the assets they want to bring in to their fold to meet their corporate objectives.

If they fudge the figures, they're fooling no one but themselves.

Worse, the company could find itself in serious trouble with the banks in the event it offers the property subject of bloated numbers as security for its fund borrowings.

Since property assessment is a highly specialized field, the SEC has accredited several appraiser companies to assist it in the resolution of assessment issues.

Although desirable, it is not necessary for corporations, except those whose stocks are traded in the stock exchange or are grantees of secondary licenses from the SEC, to engage the services of an accredited appraiser to get approval for the use of property as consideration for shares of stocks.

Examination

The protection of the public's interest is the rationale behind the SEC's requirement that real properties brought in as equity by listed companies and holders of secondary licenses be evaluated first by SEC-accredited appraisers.

These companies have a common denominator—they solicit funds directly from the public.

The listed companies do it through the sale of their stocks in the stock exchange.

Grantees of secondary licenses, such as pré-need companies and sellers of securities, raise funds through the sale of pre-need plans, bonds, preferred shares and other forms of corporate debts.

Before these companies are allowed to add real property to their capital stock, the SEC has to make sure the land in question is truthfully and fairly valuated.

If these companies go bankrupt (and this is a risk that cannot be ignored given the events of the recent past), the investing public can run after those properties.

The certification by SEC-accredited appraisers on the fair market value of real property offered to form part of the capital stock serves as a "good housekeeping seal."

An accredited appraiser that compromises its integrity in the assessment of real property, e.g., giving a 10-hectare land deep in the Sierra Madre a valuation equal to that of a similarly sized property in Quezon City, could lose its accreditation.

And word about that discharge usually spreads quickly in the business grapevine with disastrous results.

(For feedback, please write to rpalabrica@inquirer. com. ph.)

CURRENCIES

November 8, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.682874	1.000000	43.3700
Japan	Yen	0.006053	0.008864	0.3844
United Kingdom	Pound	1.435673	2.102400	91.1811
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.087934	0.128770	5.5848
Switzerland	Franc	0.602660	0.882535	38.2755
Canada	Dollar	0.735142	1.076542	46.6896
Singapore	Dollar	0.473987	0.694107	30.1034
Australia	Dollar	0.639514	0.936505	40.6162
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.813019	2.654985	115.1467
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.182582	0.267373	11.5960
Brunei	Dollar	0.472348	0.691706	29.9993
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000075	0.000110	0.0048
Thailand	Baht	0.021610	0.031646	1.3725
UAE	Dirham	0.186013	0.272398	11.8139
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.464400	63.5110
Korea	Won	0.000754	0.001104	0.0479
China	Yuan**	0.091758	0.134371	5.8277
Denmark	Kroner	0.134197	0.196518	8.5230
India	Rupee	0.017389	0.025465	1.1044
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.205129	0.300391	13.0280
New Zealand	Dollar	0.535042	0.783515	33.9810
Sweden	Kroner	0.108078	0.158270	6.8642
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021115	0.030921	1.3410

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Nov. 7, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Nov. 7, 2007

SMC to let go...

From page B1

PNOC Energy Development Corp.

Kirin plans to acquire all of San Miguel's shares in National Foods by the end of 2007, turning the Australian dairy giant into a consolidated subsidiary. In its statement, Kirin values the transaction at approximately 294 billion yen or A$2.8 billion.

Through this investment, Kirin "will obtain a robust growth platform for businesses in the area of food and health," which will strengthen growth and boost the group's presence in Asia and Oceania.

National Foods is a leading Australian manufacturer of dairy products and beverages manufactured from 24 production sites.

Also, flagship product James Boag's Premium Lager is Australia's second largest selling domestic premium beer brand.

With annual sales revenue of A$61 million in 1999 (roughly $56 million), prior to San Miguel's acquisition, the company has grown revenue to A$92 million (approximately $85 to $86 million) in 2006.

Earlier this year, San Miguel announced the restructuring of its core businesses in the Philippines with the recent spin-off of its domestic beer operations and its intent to participate in emerging non-allied businesses such as power generation.

As of the first half, San Miguel's war chest, or cash and cash equivalents, stood at P18.19 billion.

Wall Street ...

From page B1

weeks, major export companies had begun to seek hedging mechanisms to protect themselves from the adverse impact of a strong peso.

DBP president Reynaldo David announced that more exporters were now tapping instruments under its hedging facility for exporters. He said more than P104 million in guaranteed contracts had been protected through the program.

"These exporters are involved in the production of handicrafts, aquaculture, carageenan and garments with major markets in the United States, Europe, Japan, Chile and India," he said.

One component of the hedging facility—the foreign exchange insurance product—provides exporters with the ability to benefit from peso depreciation, and to protect themselves from losses when the peso appreciates. With this product, exporters may sell their dollars against the peso to DBP at a specified price on a specified date.

"Thus, in the event of peso depreciation, the exporter can sell his dollars at a higher rate on maturity date," David said. If the peso appreciates, the exporter will be able to sell at the agreed protection rate to protect him from any loss."

BSP turns ...

From page B1

On the other hand, the peso's sharp appreciation since the start of the year has helped temper the harsh impact of runaway oil prices. For next year, the government is targeting to contain inflation within a range of 3 to 5 percent.

A strong currency lowers the cost of buying goods from the overseas market, benefiting net oil importers like the Philippines.

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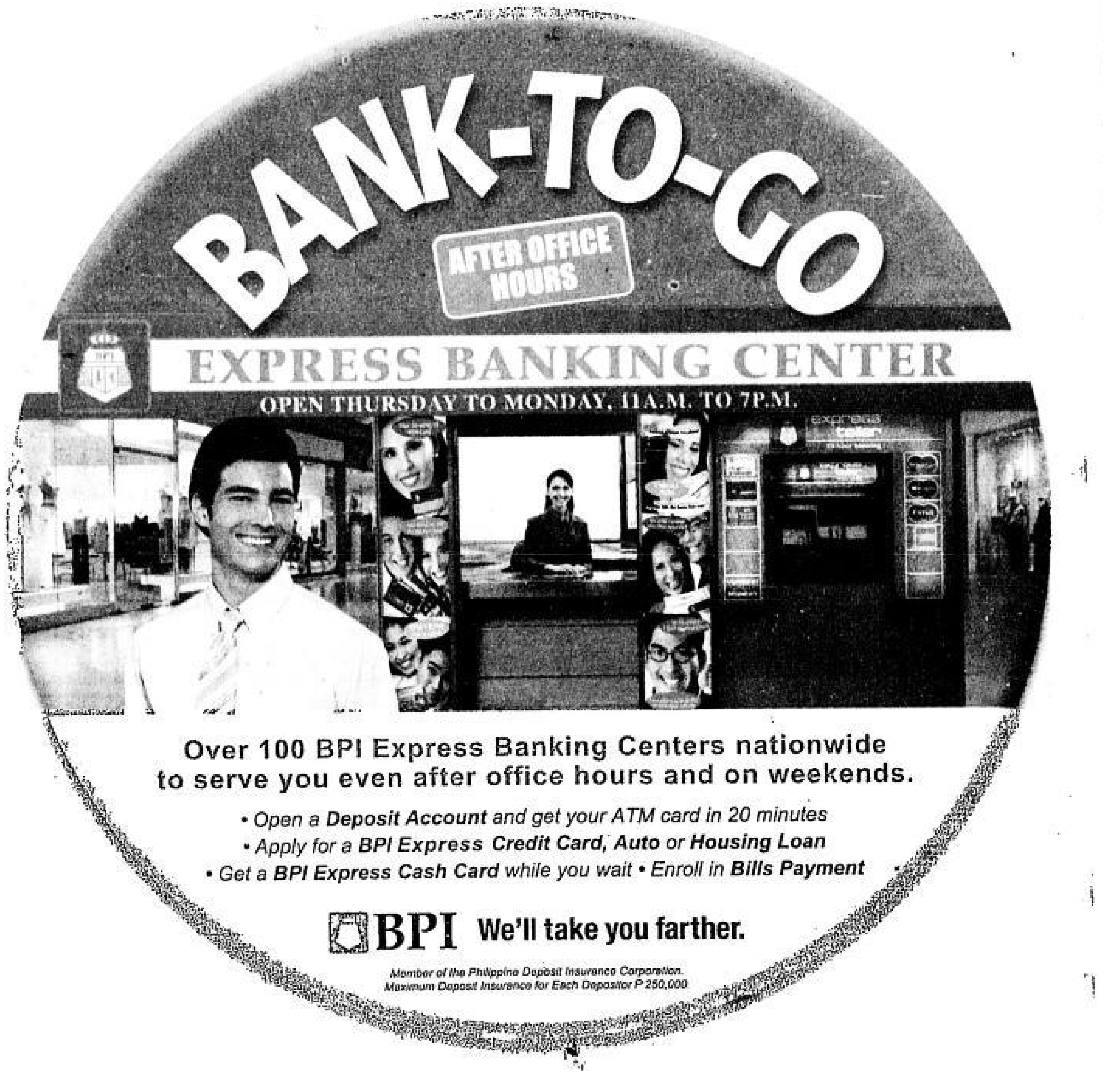

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NFA backs plans to separate regulatory, pricing functions

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY has welcomed proposals to separate its regulatory and commercial functions to help plug its losses.

Rex Estoperez, manager of the NFA's public affairs department, told the INQUIRER that the agency was expected to post a loss of P4.5 billion this year, an improvement over last year's P10.9 billion.

Estoperez said, however, that NFA would continue to be in the red as long as the core problem—its conflicting mandates—is not addressed.

He said the NFA, as a government owned and controlled corporation is expected to post profits.

But fulfilling its mandate to ensure stable supply and price of rice normally means enduring losses, he explained.

Estoperez said a bill seeking to separate the NFA's regulatory and commercial functions has been pending at the House of Representatives, but has not been certified as urgent.

House Bill No. 1096, authored by Rep. Emil Ong of the second district of Northern Samar, dissolves the NFA and creates two new entities: The National Food Corp. (NFC), which will handle the commercial function of the old NFA, and the Food Development and Regulatory Administration (FDRA), which will regulate rice retailers.

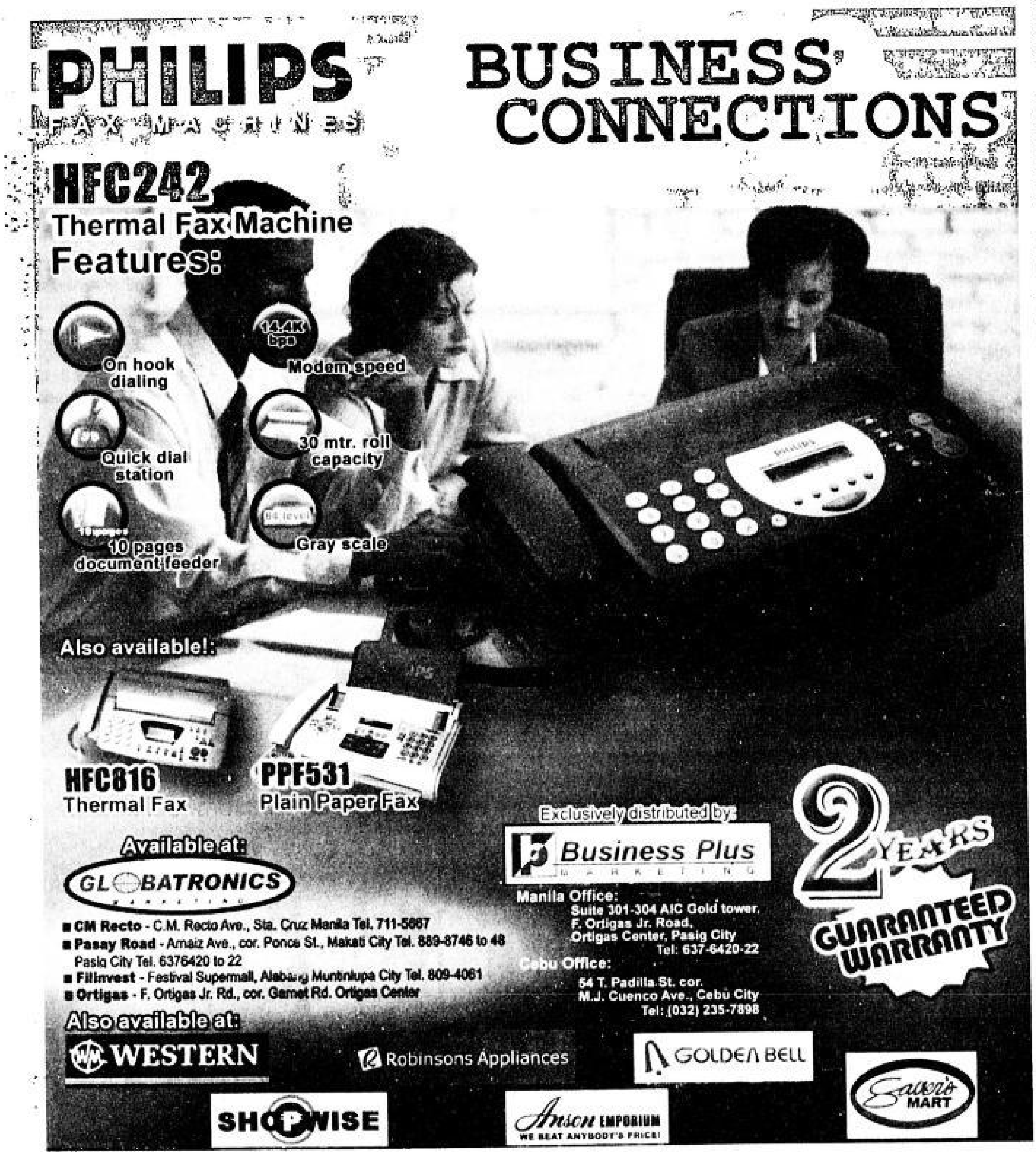
"We are only prolonging the agony by not rationalizing the NFA. Year in and year out, the NFA's losses have always been the subject of inquiry (during congressional hearings on the national budget)," Estoperez said in an interview.

Losses by state-owned firms, including that of the NFA, have been largely blamed for the national government's fiscal woes.

The NFA said, however, that posting losses was difficult to avoid because of its mandate to stabilize supply and price of rice.

Estoperez noted that the NFA's selling price for rice remains at P18 despite increase in the cost of buying the staple food, whether imported or bought from domestic farmers.

Estoperez also said that the NFA has often been tasked by the national government to implement propoor programs and to supply rice to calamity-stricken areas, but without additional financial support.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Agriculture and industry join in antismuggling

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

TWO DAYS AGO, AT THE MONTHLY board meeting of the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI), president Jess Aranza identified five key areas that must be included in the antismuggling bill. FPI chair Meneleo Carlos said: "If these five areas are not addressed, the bill will be practically useless."

Albert Lim, Alyansa Agrikultura's vice president for the Visayas and concurrent National Federation of Hog Raisers president, compared the Alyansa list of four antismuggling priority areas with the FPI list. He said, "We have three that are in common with industry. We must work with them on this."

Background

For the last two years, there has been a joint effort among FPI, Fair Trade Alliance (FTA), Alyansa, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), and PhilExport to draft an antismuggling bill.

These groups submitted this draft to Congressman Erin Tañada, who successfully gained congressional approval for it in the last Congress. However, because of lack of time, the last Senate failed to approve it.

Thankfully, four senators have drafted four good versions of this antismuggling bill: Senators Ed Angara, Chiz Escudero, Jinggoy Estrada and Mar Roxas. Taken together, there are more than 20 proposed changes. But three are essential to both agriculture and industry.

As Carlos said, "We should concentrate not so much on catching the smugglers, but on addressing the smuggling problem at its roots. And this is best done through preventive measures."

Inward-forward manifest

The Inward Forward Manifest (IFM) identifies the imported products and their volumes, the ship being used, and the date of arrival. The Bureau of Customs (BOC) usually gets this information two or more days before the ship arrives. But only the BOC has access to these IFMs.

If the new law requires these IFMs to be provided to the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Agriculture, together with their accredited private sector representatives, potential smugglers will think twice before acting. Today, they only have the BOC to bribe.

With IFM access to others, the smugglers will have too many people to bribe, some of whom are their most intense adversaries.

Values on website

The second area is the posting on a website of the reference published values of the imported products. This will determine to what extent an undervalued product deviates from this reference value.

More than outright smuggling, the bulk of revenue loss today is due to technical smuggling or undervaluation.

If these reference values are posted on the website, the potential smuggler will hesitate to undervalue his product because he can be easily caught.

Since these reference values are now known only to BOC, undervaluation is rampant. As a matter of fact, there is a $10 billion or P450 billion difference between the value exporting countries officially state they send to us, and the value the BOC reports it receives. This amounts to at least P80 billion in lost tax revenues.

Private sector 'intervenors'

The third common area that agriculture and industry must address together is for the new law to allow private sector lawyers to intervene and help prosecute in antismuggling court cases.

We commend the BOC for allowing private sector intervention in very limited cases at the BOC. We recommend wider application of this practice. But for this intervention to be allowed in court cases, a new provision in the antismuggling law must first be passed.

For example, there are many times that the smuggler gets away with the crime because the BOC legal resources are inadequate in convicting the smuggler, many of whom use fictitious names and addresses. These smugglers change their names and addresses at will. With private sector high-powered "intervenors," smugglers will have to contend with them and will predictably stop many of their smuggling activities.

In all three areas stated above, the strategy used is the now sorely lacking private sector involvement. This is a significant addition in the three areas identified here, where BOC has almost total control of both information access and implementation mechanisms.

Private sector involvement as a preventive measure is far more effective than chasing smugglers, of which not even one has been jailed in the past 30 years.

Conclusion

With agriculture and industry united on the three issues identified above, it is hoped that the Senate will act on these immediately.

Even if there are more than 20 changes achieved through the antismuggling bill, ignoring these three areas will render the new antismuggling bill weak and ineffective. The smuggling scourge will then continue its devastating impact on our economy, to the great detriment of our national well-being.

(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, former secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil @ yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112).

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DA expects good year for agri despite drought

By Amy R. Remo

DESPITE THE DRY SPELL THAT hit some provinces early this year, Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said yesterday that the country can expect a "positive" agriculture performance.

Yap said in a briefing at the 2007 Asian Seed Congress that everybody will also be "pleasantly surprised with the third quarter results," given the performance of key subsectors, particularly rice and corn.

He, however, declined to disclose exact growth figures, as third quarter results are set to be released next week.

According to Yap, the rice sector has recovered from the prolonged dry spell, which ravaged regions of Ilocos, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog, Bicol and Cagayan Valley.

More than 127,000 hectares of farmland withered due to lower-than-normal rainfall in June and July.

Dry spell losses were initially estimated at 200,000 metric tons or rice, worth some P600 million.

With Yap optimistic about the rice subsector, it is possible that the initial target production of 16.2 million metric tons will be met.

Corn production, meanwhile, is notably higher so far this year compared to last year's 6.08 million metric tons, Yap added.

In a separate interview, Gintuang Masaganang Ani Rice program director Frisco Malabanan explained that these "positive results" could be traced to the positive results of several measures undertaken starting last year.

"These include certified seed and hybrid rice programs; repair and rehabilitation of irrigation facilities; and quick turnaround planting program in the Visayas and Mindanao regions," he said.

Malabanan said the losses due to the drought were not as bad as expected because farmers were still able to plant four to six weeks later.

"What happened with North Luzon farmers was just delayed planting," he noted.

As for the QTA planting program, Malabanan earlier said the government was expecting some 350,000 metric tons of rice from the additional 99,217 hectares, which were cultivated in the second half of the year.

The department carried out the QTA scheme to boost yields in production areas not affected by the dry spell and thus, make up for the estimated shortfall.

Yap also said the DA targets to rehabilitate at least 55,000 hectares of irrigated land this year and a total of 350,000 hectares by 2010.

He noted that out of the 800,000 hectares of irrigated land in the country, about 400,000 hectares need to be rehabilitated.

Local industry seeks ban on waste paper exports

Shortage in raw materials supply seen

By Ronnel W. Domingo

DOMESTIC PAPER MANUFACTURERS yesterday called for a ban on the export of waste paper, warning of a possible shortage in supply of inputs for local paper production in view of China's insatiable demand for these materials.

Miguel del Rosario, president of the Philippine Pulp and Paper Manufacturers Association (Pulpapel), said the industry also needed government support in the form of patronizing locally made paper and avoiding cheap and substandard imports.

"Exportation of waste paper, including used corrugated cartons, started recently with shipments to Thailand," Del Rosario said. "A major Chinese paper manufacturer has even set up buying stations in the country."

He was speaking at the sidelines of the three-day 28th Federation of Asean Pulp and Paper Industry Conference being held at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, which ends today.

Del Rosario said the exportation of waste paper was robbing the industry of a major asset—the supply of recyclable materials—which could compromise the industry's competitiveness.

"We are now suffering a shortage, with domestic paper mills now importing a third of their raw material supply needs," Del Rosario said.

An industry report showed that the 35 domestic pulp and paper mills consumed 1.19 million metric tons of waste paper last year and is estimated to use 1.24 million MT this year.

In 2006, the mills also used 931,665 MT of pulp and 115,100 MT of paper.

The 35 mills, which represent a total processing capacity of 2.21 million MT as of 2006, produced some 1.66 million MT of paper or only 75 percent of their capacity.

The report also showed that the industry was a net importer of raw materials and paper products, and has been importing waste paper at not less than 550,000 MT a year over the past several years.

Amando T. Rios, Pulpapel executive director, said in a separate interview that while there were no laws prohibiting the export of waste paper, the group wanted to see some efforts from the government and the public to curb the practice.

Citing Pulpapel data, Del Rosario said about 1.6 million sorters and collectors could lose their livelihood if the waste paper they live on would be taken out of the domestic supply chain.

ROUNDUP

Ayala P8-Bbond float OKd

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved Ayala Corp.'s plan to offer up to P8 billion worth of fixed-rate bonds due 2012.

Ayala has tapped six firms—BPI Capital Corp., BDO Capital & Investment Corp., First Metro Investment Corp., ING Bank NV, Land Bank of the Philippines and Standard Chartered Bankto underwrite the offer.

Ayala will use the funds to refinance debts. *Elizabeth S. Lacson*

Otto to acquire stake in Galoc

AUSTRALIAN firm Otto Energy Ltd. will acquire an 18.28-percent stake in the Galoc production field covered by Service Contract 14C in offshore Northwest Palawan, in a bid to further expand its portfolio in the country's petroleum exploration industry.

In a statement posted on the company's official website, Otto chief executive Alex Parks said it would acquire the shares of Cape Philippines and Team Oil, each of which owned 15.69 percent of SC 14C operator Galoc Production Co.

Parks said Otto would pay Cape Philippines and Team Oil $38.5 million in cash for their stakes. Otto would also replace the cash bonds that the two companies put up worth $12.6 million. *Abigail L. Ho*

Lepanto, Zijin ink deal

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Co. has inked an agreement with China's Zijin Mining Group on the latter's proposed acquisition of a 20-percent interest in a Benguet gold-copper deposit for $70 million.

Zijin is one of the biggest gold producers in China and is listed on the stock exchange of Hong Kong Limited.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Lepanto president and chief operating officer Bryan U. Yap said the deal covers Far Southeast Gold Resources Inc., which is 60-percent owned by Lepanto *Amy R. Remo*

ICTSI sees Q3 profit rising by 35% to ₱627M

By Riza T. Olchondra

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. said its unaudited third-quarter net income rose by 35 percent to P627 million from P464 million last year on the back of strong international operations.

Profit in the first nine months of the year rose 27 percent to P1.67 billion from P1.32 billion a year ago.

ICTSI said it could have earned more had the peso remained stable.

"The 10 percent year-on-year appreciation of the peso against the US dollar has significantly dampened the impact of the international operations' contribution to consolidated earnings in peso terms. During the third quarter, the company earned 74 percent of its gross revenues in currencies other than the Philippine peso," ICTSI said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

ICTSI said it grossed P4.21 billion in the third quarter alone, up 39 percent from P3.02 billion a year ago.

Consolidated gross revenue in the nine months to September reached P10.61 billion from P8.55 billion in the same period last year.

ICTSI said the revenue growth was driven mainly by the improving volume in its Manila, Poland, Brazil and Madagascar ports. Foreign operations now account for 54.3 percent of consolidated revenues, from 43 percent last year.

Net revenue, which excludes the port authority's share of gross sales, increased 45.9 percent to P3.27 billion in the third quarter from P2.24 billion.

ICTSI handled total volume of 811,049 twenty foot equivalent units (TEUs) during the third quarter, 53 percent more than the 530,301 TEUs handled a year ago.

PRULINK PRU LIFE U.K.

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week November 06, 2007	Last Week October 30, 2007
Bond Fund - Peso	1.64539	1.64582
Managed Fund - Peso	1.95465	1.95700
Growth Fund - Peso	1.98302	1.99092
Equity Fund - Peso	1.01755	1.02265
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.4261	1.4345

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

INSULAR LIFE
INSULAR LIFE Wealth Builder
INSULAR LIFE Wealth Builder
INSULAR LIFE Wealth SECURE

Investment funds of **Wealth Series**

UNIT PRICES (in Php)	Oct 29, 2007	Oct 22, 2007
Fixed Income Fund	1.301733	1.297636
Balanced Fund	1.526858	1.506319
Equity Fund	1.892983	1.848520
Dollar Fixed Income Fund	1.003101	1.000755

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

Fund movements for October 30 and 31, 2007 will be included in the fund valuation as of 12 November 2007. Corresponding unit prices as of said date will be published on 16 November 2007.

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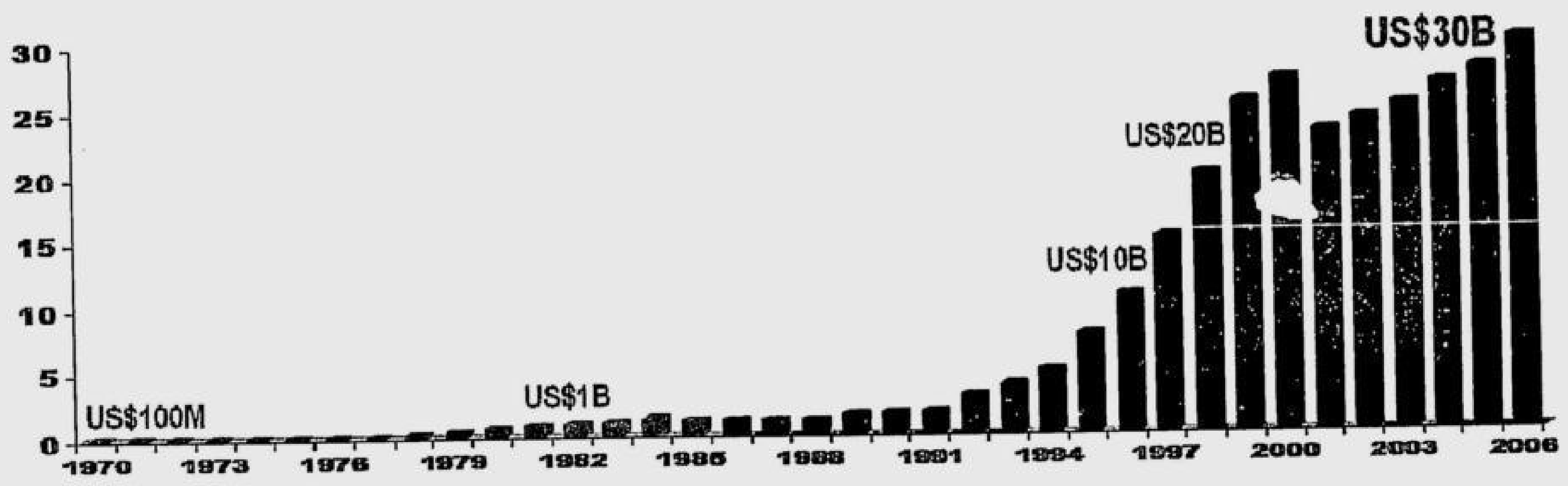
THE PHILIPPINE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY EXPORTS THROUGH THE YEARS



THE JAPANESE ELECTRONICS COMPANIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

1. **Exports** - US$ 6 Billion out of US$ 30 Billion electronics exports
2. **Investments** - US$ 350 Million investments out of US$ 1 Billion investments
3. **Companies** - 200 out of 900 electronics companies operating in the Philippines
4. **Employment** – 130,000 employed by Japanese companies

THE SEMICONDUCTOR AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES IN THE PHILIPPINES, INC. (SEIPI) INTENDS TO SUSTAIN AND FURTHER THE GROWTH OF THE FIGURES ABOVE

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POWER SECTOR
ASSETS & LIABILITIES
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

Republic of the Philippines

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

for the

Procurement of Network Laser and Portable Printers for PSALM Corporation

1. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, through its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the total sum of ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED FORTY TWO THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED PESOS ONLY (Php1,242,800.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Procurement of Network Laser and Portable Printers for PSALM Corporation:

ITEM	Description	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Approved Budget for the Contract
1	Network Colour Laser	4	Unit	Php1,242,800.00
2	Network Laser Printer	10	Unit	
3	Portable Printer	3	Unit	
TOTAL				Php1,242,800.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Network Laser and Portable Printers for PSALM Corporation. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to R.A. 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **ITB**. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) PER SCHEDULE shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) PER SCHEDULE who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure. Bids must cover all the items indicated in the Bidding Documents.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (PhP1,000.00). The method of payment will be either cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **16 November 2007 at 2:00 PM** at the 6th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **29 November 2007, 2:00 PM**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, cashier's check, irrevocable letter of credit (1% of the ABC), Bank guarantee (1 ½% of ABC) or Surety Bond (2 ½% of the ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **29 November 2007 at 2:30 PM** at the 6th floor, Bankmer Building, 6756, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation
HELENA C. TOLENTINO
7th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel: (02)8405046 ; Fax: (02)8930699
e-mail: *hctolentino@psalm.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **HELENA C. TOLENTINO**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI–November 9, 2007)

POWER SECTOR
ASSETS & LIABILITIES
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

Republic of the Philippines

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

for the

Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Servers for PSALM Corporation

1. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, through its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the total sum of ONE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Php1,800,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Servers for PSALM Corporation:

ITEM	Description	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Approved Budget for the Contract
I	Blade Server	4	Sets	Php1,800,000.00
II	Blade Server Chassis	1	Set	

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Server for PSALM Corporation. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to R.A. 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **ITB**. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure. Bids must cover all the items indicated in the Bidding Documents.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS ONLY (PhP1,500.00). The method of payment will be either cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
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9. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation
HELENA C. TOLENTINO
7th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel: (02)8405046 ; Fax: (02)8930699
e-mail: *hctolentino@psalm.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **HELENA C. TOLENTINO**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI–November 9, 2007)

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(PDI--Nov. 9, 16 & 23, 2007)

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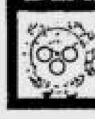

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(BRING TRANSCRIPT / COLLEGE DOCUMENTS)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Mandurriao, Iloilo City
Fax No.: 321-17-97
E-mail add: **wvmc@pldtdsl.net**

Project: Reference Number 07-001

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DOH-Western Visayas Medical Center through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	CONTRACT DURATION
A. Supply of Security Services for the Western Visayas Medical Center, Don Jose Monfort Medical Hospital, Mental Health Unit and Drug Rehab	• Mandurriao, Iloilo City • Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo • Pototan, Iloilo	Php3,689,640.00	12 months from date of contract signing
B. Supply of Janitorial Services for the Western Visayas Medical Center, Mental Health Unit & Drug Rehab	• Mandurriao, Iloilo City • Pototan, Iloilo	Php3,240,000.00	
C. Laundry Services for Western Visayas Medical Center	• Mandurriao, Iloilo City	Php780,000.00	

Prospective bidders have experience in understanding a similar project with the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as Preliminary Examination of bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars/relatives to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of list as follows:

SCHEDULE OF SECURITY, JANITORIAL, LAUNDRY SERVICES	
1. Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI)	November 12, 2007
2. Submission of Eligibility of Documents	November 13, 2007
3. Eligibility Check	November 14, 2007
4. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 15-21, 2007
5. Site Inspection	November 22-24, 2007
6. Pre-Bid Conference	November 26, 2007
7. Opening of Bids	December 3, 2007
8. Bid Evaluation	December 4-18, 2007
9. Post Qualification	December 19, 2007
10. Notice of Award	December 26, 2007

The Pre-Bid Conference and Opening of Bids, will be on the above.stated at 10:00 AM in the executive Conference Room, Western Visayas Medical Center, Iloilo City.

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount to the DOH-Western Visayas Medical Center Cashier.

PROJECT	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS
Supply of Security Services	Php2,500.00
Supply of Janitorial Services	Php2,500.00
Supply of Laundry Services	Php2,500.00

The DOH-Western Visayas Medical Center assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The Western Visayas Medical Center reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the Bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidders.

(Sgd.) **MR. RUDEL M. JARANILLA, RN, MAN**
BAC – Chairman on Services

(PDI–Nov. 4 & 9, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development IV-A CALABARZON
QMMC Compound, Project 4, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT REGION 4A, QMMC Compound, Project 4, Quezon City, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Proposed Rehabilitation/Construction of Tagaytay Treatment and Rehabilitation Center
Location	Tagaytay City,Cavite
Brief Description	Repair/Rehabilitation/Construction of the following: Dormitory Gymnasium Administrative Building/Main Kitchen/Dining Hall Doctors' Quarters/Staffhouse – 4 units Guard House/Comfort Room/Waiting Area Covered Walkway Laundry Area/Drying Area Guard Quarters
Approved Budget for Contract	Php 18,900,000.00
Contract Duration	180 working days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract.

The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities are as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	November 9-14, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms and Bidding Documents	November 15-22, 2007
3. Pre-Bid Conference	November 23, 2007
4. Receipt of Eligibility and Opening of Bids	November 26, 2007

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at QMMC Compound, Project 4, Quezon City, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,000.00 to the CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT REGION 4A Cashier.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 12,000.00 to the CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT REGION 4A Cashier.

The CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT REGION 4A assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **NOEL G. PASION, MD, MPH**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--November 9, 2007)

GUILLERMO R. GABRIEL

"Guam and Pandacan"

Loving husband, father, uncle, grand-uncle and friend

peacefully joined our Creator
on 23 October 2007 in Guam.

His family requests the devout to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

On Friday, 09 November 2007, his cremated remains will be brought to the Capilla dela Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio Parish in McKinley Road, Forbes Park, 1200 Makati City where family and friends may gather until 10:00 a.m., Sunday, 11 November 2007.

Interment will be on Sunday, 11 November 2007 at the Manila South Cemetery, Makati City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Sto. Niño de Pandacan Catholic Church.

"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heaven..."
Ecclesiastes 3:11

MARIA "IYA" PANGILINAN BAUTISTA

A devoted wife, a loving mother,
a doting grandmother and a loyal friend

joined her Creator and her beloved husband, Maximo, on November 4, 2007 at the age of 82.

Her bereaved children **Esing, Benny, Lina, Baby, Bobbo, Neneng, Elias, Lake, Liit, Dolphy, Cristy, Willie** and **Maridol**; her children-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Baluarte, Gapan City, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 11, 2007 at the Gapan Memorial Garden after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

Death Notice

Patrick Joseph " P.J." A. Pineda
(Nov. 8, 1982 - Nov. 4, 2007)
His remains lie in state at Bahay Karmelo, Mt. Carmel Church Proj. 6, Q.C.
Interment will be on November. 10, 2007, at
Good Shepherd Memorial Park, Dolores, San Fernando Pampanga
after the 8:00 A.M. Mass at Mt. Carmel Church.

"Still dreamt of, still missed
You were the man your father loved, and was."

Twenty-Ninth Death Anniversary of

ENRIQUE Q. FERNANDO, Jr.

(TATA)

December 19, 1950 – November 9, 1978

Masses will be offered on Friday, November 9, 2007 at:

Barangka Catholic Church, *Marikina City*	6:00 A.M.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, *Diliman, Q.C.*	6:00 A.M., 12:00 noon, 6:00 P.M.
Sta. Maria della Strada Church, *Pansol, Q.C.*	6:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M.
Our Lady of Pentecost Parish, *Loyola Heights, Q.C.*	6:30 A.M., 6:30 P.M.
Sacred Heart Church, *Kamuning, Quezon City*	7:00 A.M.

He is with his father, former Supreme Court Chief Justice ENRIQUE M. FERNANDO. His bereaved mother, EMMA QUISUMBING-FERNANDO, and the family request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
– 2 Timothy 4:7

In loving memory

ROSALINA A. BAÑARES

Her husband, children and grandchildren invite relatives
to join in praying for her eternal happiness in Heaven
in remembrance of her 10th death anniversary.

Our Dearly Beloved
Cadel
Purificacion S. de Leon

Peacefully joined our Lord
on November 7, 2007 at the age of 84.

Her sisters **Iluminada, Demetria** and **Marina**; niece **Joy** with husband **Gary**; other nieces and nephews and grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Premier I Chapel, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

On Saturday, November 10, 2007, a 7:00 a.m. Mass will be held at the Loyola Premier I Chapel. Thereafter, her remains will be brought home to Bustos, Bulacan. Upon arrival, a Mass will be held at the Bustos Catholic Church. After the Mass, interment will take place at the de Leon Family Mausoleum in San Pedro, Bustos, Bulacan.

CLASSIFIEDS

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF INTERVIEW WITH EMPLOYER: NOVEMBER 12 & 13, 2007

Our principal, **ETIHAD AIRWAYS**, in Abu Dhabi, UAE,
with POEA Registration No. 10083541, is in urgent need of the following:

SENIOR GUEST SERVICES AGENT (SGSA)	GUEST SERVICES AGENT (GSA)	PREMIUM LOUNGE SERVICES AGENT (PLSA)
Grade D - AED 2800-4100	Grade C - AED 2250-3200	Grade C - AED 2250-3200

Qualification Requirements:
- *College graduate of any 4-year course*
- *With customer service work experience in an airline or any related industry (Sr. Guest Services Agent-4 years / Guest Services Agent-1 year / Premium Lounge Services Agent-3 years)*
- *Preferably with knowledge in DCS (Department Control System), departure, arrival & reservation procedures*
- *Computer literate and fluent in written & spoken English*

DISPATCHER (TURN AROUND SUPERVISOR), Grade G - AED 5500-10000

Qualification Requirements:
- *College graduate of any 4-year course*
- *Min. 3-yr. experience in a similar position including load control / dispatch / ramp function in a major int'l airport*
- *With certification in Dangerous Goods, Aircraft Weight & Balance, Ramp & Passenger Handling*
- *Computer literate and fluent in written & spoken English*

Interested applicants are requested to apply personally with the following credentials: Detailed Resume, Employment & Training Certificates, Valid Passport Copy, Diploma & Transcript of Records, Licenses, and 2-Passport Size Pictures. PRE-SCREENING WILL BE CONDUCTED UNTIL NOVEMBER 12, 2007 ONLY.

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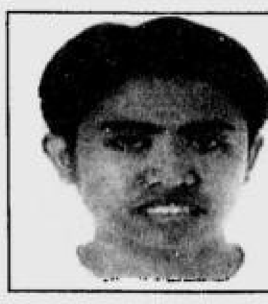
*** POEA-527-LB-042304-R ***

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Please be informed that **Richard Dela Cruz**, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **D.M. Consunji, Inc.** effective November 15, 2007. Any transactions entered by him on behalf of D.M. Consunji, Inc. after the said date will not be honored . This notice is issued for POEA requirement only.

(PDI -- November 9, 2007)

CLASSIFIEDS

dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **FIRST PHILEC MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION** with office address at **2nd Floor, Benpres Building, Exchange Road corner Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Producer of Amorphous Metal Core** with capacity of **660 MTPY** with project/plant sites located at **Kaytikling Road, Barangay Dolores, Taytay, Rizal.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration
Department

(PDI–Nov. 9, 2007)

NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that **MARIA JUVELA C. CESARIO** had resigned from **Höegh Fleet Services Philippines, Inc.** effective October 15, 2007.

Any transaction entered into by the aforesaid employee on behalf of the Company shall not be honored.

(This Ad is in compliance with POEA requirement.)

(PDI–Nov. 9, 2007)

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Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

CONSUELO DE LEON RIVERA,
Petitioner.

SSC Case No. 10-15581-05

- versus -

CORAZON RIVERA and
ISABEL F. RIVERA,
Respondents.

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Intervenor.

x - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

TO: MS. ISABEL F. RIVERA
GREETINGS:

Notice is hereby given that on the **5th day of September, 2007**, a **RESOLUTION**, consisting of seven (7) pages, was promulgated in the above-mentioned case, the dispositive portion of which reads as follows:

> "**WHEREFORE**, premises considered, petitioner failed to present substantial evidence to prove her entitlement to the SS survivor's pension benefit. Accordingly, retiree-pensioner Maximo Rivera's illegitimate daughter, Coritha S. Rivera, is qualified to receive the lump sum benefit equivalent to the balance of the five-year guaranteed pension, in her capacity as secondary beneficiary.
>
> Accordingly, the SSS is directed to pay Coritha S. Rivera the appropriate SS benefit, in accordance with its existing rules and regulations, and to inform the Commission of its compliance herewith.
>
> **SO ORDERED.**"

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI – November 9, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that **Ms. Liberty Maano,** whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **D.M. Consunji, Inc.** effective November 9, 2007. Any transactions entered by her on behalf of D.M. Consunji, Inc. after the said date will not be honored. This notice is issued for POEA requirement only.

(PDI -- November 9, 2007)

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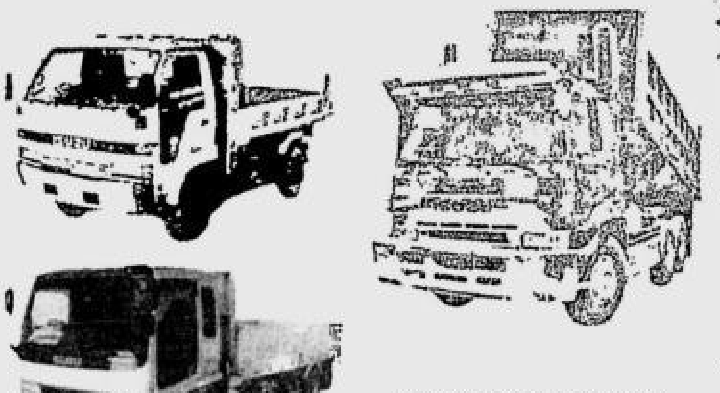

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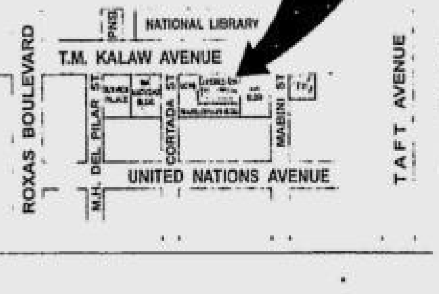

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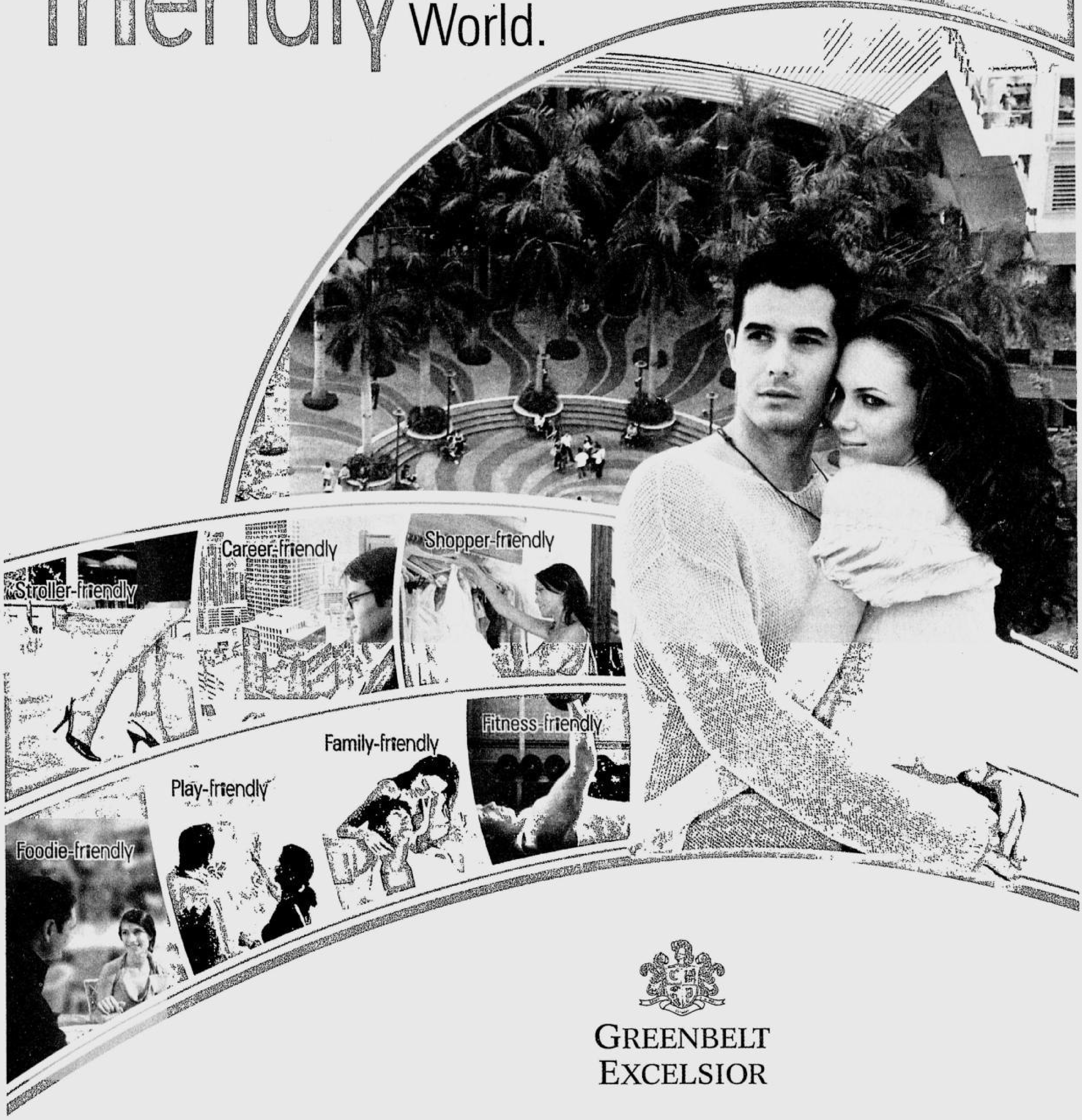
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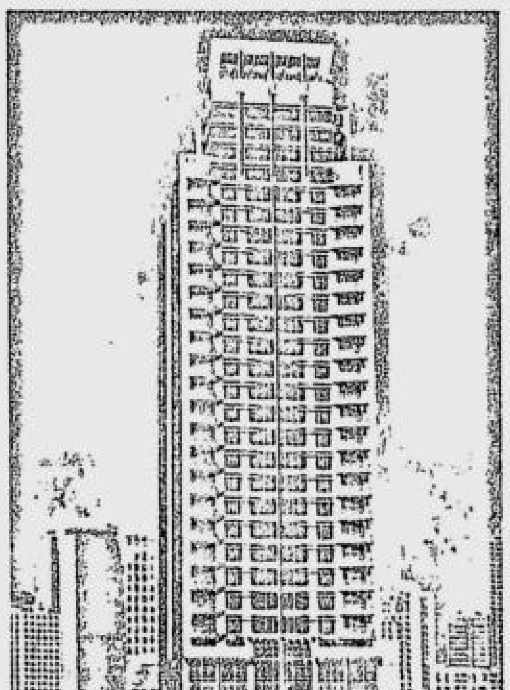

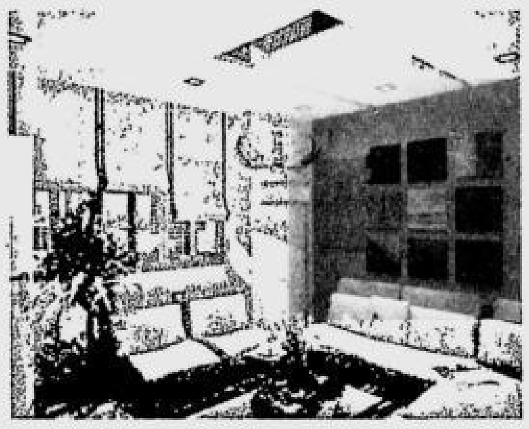

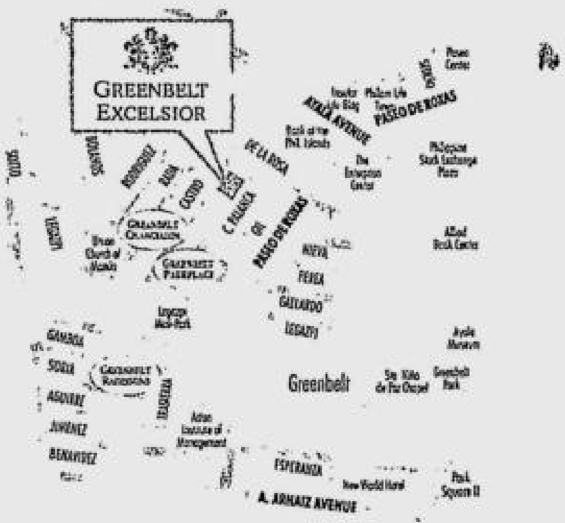
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Editor Margie Quimpo-Esp

Mom-daughter team does brand wonders

Famed beauty doctor proves extending a good brand is worth all the risks and investments

VICKI Belo (right) says she's blessed with daughter Cristalle.

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

EXTENDING A BRAND name to a new product line can make or break a brand, especially if the target market is of a different social class.

Consumers did not like it when Mercedes Benz came out with a C-class. Benz is associated with the triple A market and coming up with a line that costs almost half the price of the usual line did not suit some consumers. Sales were affected for a while.

Vicki Belo, known as the beauty doctor of the rich and famous, thus took a risk when she used her brand name to sell an affordable line of beauty products, the Belo Essentials, which targets not her usual A market but the upper C and broad B market.

But she proved that brand extension was a good path for her group to take.

Belo is now competing with multinational companies in the country like Unilever and Procter & Gamble.

In just five months since its launch last May, sales of the Belo Essentials whitening line of soap, lotion and face wash have exceeded P100 million.

The MNCs are keeping a close tab on sales of Belo Essentials, which are eating up into their whitening products' line.

Huge market

The whitening market is huge—the whitening soap sector alone is estimated to be worth over P1 billion. The same is true for facial wash.

At the helm of this much smaller company is Belo's 24-year-old daughter, Cristalle Henares. But unlike the usual family enterprises where parents just pass on the baton to the second generation, mom and daughter knew their strengths and weaknesses and immediately tapped a strong management team and consultants.

Cristalle has no qualms about learning while doing and getting help from others.

"Since Belo is a service oriented company, it was a big leap to move into the FMCG (fast-moving consumer goods) industry. Consultants who are very familiar with the "territory" are crucial in the launch and sustaining phase of the brand. I see our consultants as mentors and professors who teach me practical and experiential tips that aren't really taught in school," Belo says.

Cristalle is a management graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University. She says she is very comfortable with numbers although she needs to sharpen her skills in accounting.

Aware of the challenges ahead, she is preparing herself with an MBA via a semi-distance learning program from the University of Western Australia. A professor holds regular lectures for her in the country although most lessons are done online.

Beyond school, however, she goes out into the market and studies the customers. She admits though that having a popular mom and often being seen with her is making her face recognizable.

"I'm the managing director. I work closely with the managers and takes care of day-to-day operations. We get my mom involved in product development—testings and packaging development, strategic marketing decisions and direction of the brand," she says.

Credits to management team

Cristalle credits the initial success of Belo Essentials to her management team.

"Eric Soriano, a member of the Belo Medical Group excom and an international business professor in Ateneo's MBA program, played a huge part in putting the team together. Even before I came on board, he has been meeting and interviewing people to fill in the different positions in the company. Greg Banzon, GM of RFM Corp. and former VP for Marketing of J & J Asean, our marketing guru, is a second cousin of my mom and is involved in the company. He works closely with our team (around twice a week) to help us craft our marketing and sales strategies," she says.

Despite being the COO (child of the owner) Cristalle has no qualms about following her team.

The team is composed of Edwin Reodique, national sales manager; Lerma Mendoza, marketing manager; Didee Borja, Research & Development manager; and Jerome Hassim, finance.

Ins and outs

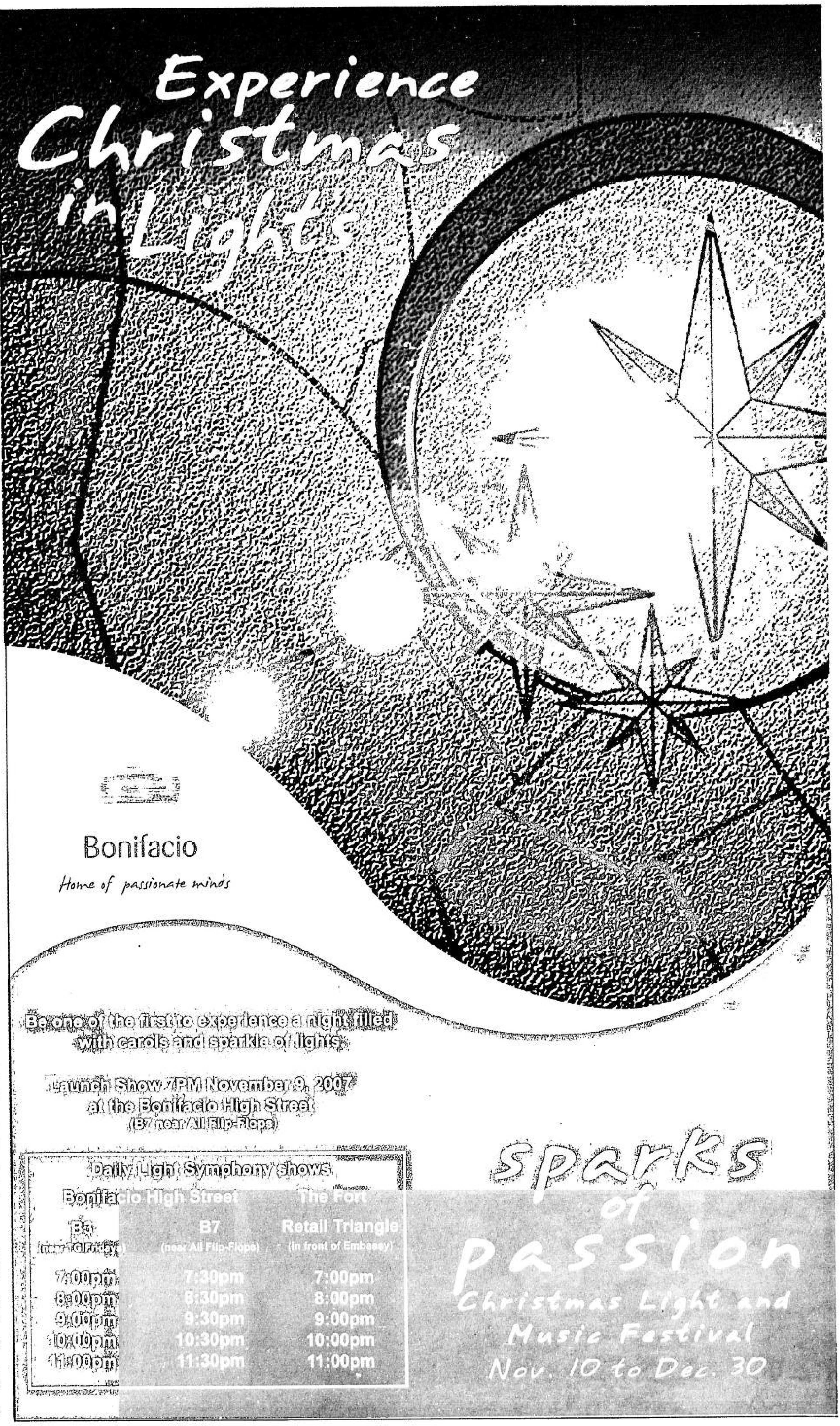
Cristalle joined the Intelligent Skin Care Inc., the makers of Belo Essentials, two years ago. She was the second employee, the first being the chemist. She is now the managing director.

She joined the firm during the product testing stages so she knows the ins and outs of the products.

Intense planning was conducted over nine months before the launch.

The experts' marks are clearly visible on the products. For product positioning, it's "premium mass;" for packaging, it's classy.

MOM-DAUGHTER/ B2-3



Experience Christmas in Lights

Bonifacio
Home of passionate minds

Be one of the first to experience a night filled with carols and sparkle of lights.

Launch Show 7PM November 9, 2007
at the Bonifacio High Street
(B7 near All Flip-Flops)

Daily Light Symphony shows

Bonifacio High Street		The Fort
B3 (near TGIFriday's)	B7 (near All Flip-Flops)	Retail Triangle (in front of Embassy)
7:00pm	7:30pm	7:00pm
8:00pm	8:30pm	8:00pm
9:00pm	9:30pm	9:00pm
10:00pm	10:30pm	10:00pm
11:00pm	11:30pm	11:00pm

sparks of passion
Christmas Light and Music Festival
Nov. 10 to Dec. 30

Feel the Christmas spirit with Merrell

TAKING LONG WALKS IN BETWEEN shopping and dining have truly become part of our lives. We devote so much time checking out malls, restaurants and leisure establishments that these have become regular activities.

Mall happenings are expected to be in full-swing with the coming Christmas season. Heavy foot traffic is expected as everyone begins the search for the perfect holiday gift.

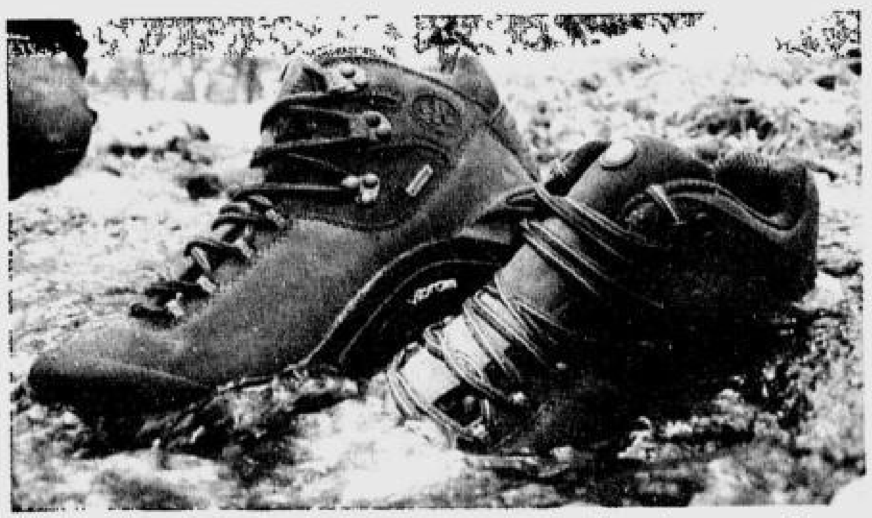
Merrell Performance Footwear, a household name in outdoor and adventure shoes, is the perfect pair for the Holidays, not to mention the unpredictable weather situation. Comfortable and durable, Merrell knows exactly what's good for you as it offers a broad line of specifically engineered shoes. Now shoppers can enjoy the durable and comfort privilege whether out on adventure or the long Christmas shopping marathon.

Merrell is also the perfect gift for lovers of outdoor getaways. With its wide range of footwear, the comfort and convenience seem endless. Hike. Scramble. Run. Walk. Merrell has stretched the limits of what one shoe can do. Waterproof and breathable, the Merrell Chamelleon Wrap Stretch with Gore-Tex gasket construction and Gore-Tex XCR lining keep your feet dry when it's wet, cool when it's warm, and warm when it's cool. These shoes provide extreme comfort and inspire envy. A four-way stretch collar of Lycra, neoprene, breathable mesh plus elastic lacing makes for the perfect fit, with easy on and off.

Any getaway would be much more enjoyable with a Merrell Men's Radius Waterproof that features the Vibram Multi-Grip sole technology that holds on to the ground. Wearing shoes like this can ensure everyone of safely hiking, biking and riding, anywhere even in all types of weather conditions. The Men's Moab Gore-Tex XCR lets you take on grasslands and forests while keeping your feet dry and comfortable. The Gore-Tex gasket makes the shoes waterproof, while providing ventilation from breathable mesh support. It also has a triple system of rubber toe bumpers and heel counters that protect your feet and Vibram Multi-Sports Sole for high performance that everyone can enjoy the comfort using this while shopping.

Merrell is also a convenient choice for holiday city shoppers. Lightweight, high-performance footwear such as Merrell's sandals and slip-ons are made for built-in comfort that will cradle your feet. In case of a holiday drizzle, it allows for the quick evaporation of water on your feet and protects it with its Microban antimicrobial foot-bed.

Merrell shoes are available at all leading department stores, specialty stores and at Merrell's concept store in Trinoma mall. Visit any of these shops to avail of your very own pair of all weather, all-terrain shoes and be ready to get away to adventure this Yuletide season.


MERRELL Men's Radius Waterproof shoes keep your feet dry and warm even in rainy weather, with a guaranteed slip-proof hike.

DE CASTRO GRACES SMX INAUGURATION
Vice President Noli de Castro (3rd from left) was the guest of honor at the ceremonial toast and inauguration of SMX, the country's newest, largest exhibition and convention center, a world-class venue for international exhibitions, large scale local trade events, corporate functions and other industry conventions. With the Vice President are: (from left) Pagcor Chair Efraim Genuino, DTI Secretary Peter Favila, business tycoon Henry Sy with eldest son and SM Prime Holdings president Hans Sy and internationally renowned painter Juvenal Sanso.

All-day cool with New Charmee Feminine Wipes Mentholated

new
Charmee
feminine wipes
10

EVERY WOMAN WANTS TO FEEL COOL, fresh and clean in their intimate area even in the middle of the day. This may seem impossible when they are not home and water is not always available. End all your worries! The newest variant of your trusted Charmee Feminine Wipes is sure to keep you feeling refreshed and clean no matter what time of the day.

Introducing Charmee Feminine Wipes Mentholated. This will definitely suit women who are always on the go. It will certainly give you that cooling sensation. Charmee Feminine Wipes Mentholated comes in 10 pulls of soft, gentle and refreshingly cool wet tissues. It's hypo-allergenic and alcohol-free, so every sheet is sure to be mild and gentle. Its antibacterial ingredients provide delicate cleansing while it matches the right pH level of a woman's body. Plus, it has a eucalyptus scent that minimizes unpleasant odors. Charmee mentholated wipes is one of its kind that does all these actions in one cool green pack. So, end the curiosity, experience that cooling sensation of the new Charmee Mentholated Wipes, now available in all leading supermarkets nationwide.

HDI NETWORK LAUNCHES PROPOLIS FACIAL SOAP

Cleanses • Protects Naturally

HDI Network launched its newest product, Propolis Facial Soap in all their branches and major cities nationwide. HD Propolis Soap is an effective anti-bacterial facial soap which cleanses and protects you face naturally. It uses honey as its natural moisturizer. One of the launch activities was a Skin Care Talk by Dr. Mario Ramirez. The event was well attended by distributors, consumers of HD products. Experience the benefits of Propolis Soap, it is recommended to anyone who wishes to have a naturally clean, clear and healthy skin. Especially beneficial to those suffering from acne, pimples and skin irritations. For more skin care info call the HDI hotline no. 435-9999, 635-2431 or log on to www.hdinetwork.com.ph.

TREES for Life

TREE-PLANTING PROGRAM
Union Galvasteel Corp recently launched a tree-planting program at the Caliraya-Lumot Watershed of the National Power Corp in Caliraya, Laguna as a way of giving back to the community. Union Galvasteel executives, officers and employees with representatives of Napocor took part in the activity. Shown is Union Galvasteel president Arthur M. Florendo.

Capacity crowd expected at Aegis concert in Cebu

ORGANIZERS OF A FREE CONCERT featuring popular pop-rock band Aegis in Cebu City this Saturday, Nov. 10, are expecting a capacity crowd at the University of San Carlos South Campus' cultural center based on preliminary ticket redemption reports for the one-night event.

Dubbed as "Music & Magic in Cebu", fans will be able to watch the concert for free by purchasing P350 worth of products from sponsor Magic Cream Whitener and Moisturizer by Pervil Cosmetics Philippines. Talents from local comedy bar 22nd Street will also perform during the concert.

Pervil Cosmetics' Magic Cream, Whitening Lotion, Cream Soap and Sunblock Cream are available in Cebu at Rose Pharmacy outlets, La Nueva, Foodasavers Mart, Cebu Queens Pharmacy, Watsons outlets, Mercury Drug, Lee Mart, and SM Supermarket, among others.

Official receipts can be exchanged for concert tickets from Magic Cream's exclusive distributor in Cebu, Zweig Pharma and Distributors Inc on R. Duterte Street, Lupa, Banawa, Cebu City. They may be reached at (032) 262897 or 0922-3773501.

Pervil president Tess Villanueva said the concert venue will open at 6 p.m. on Saturday to enable concert-goers to redeem their tickets there. Fans may also purchase Magic Cream products at the venue before the start of the concert.

Aegis gained popularity for its scorching vocal renditions of such popular hits as "Basang Basa sa Ulan", "Halik", "Sinta" and "Luha", among others.

"The Aegis concert is our way of thanking our customers in Cebu for their continued patronage of our products," Villanueva said.

Pervil marketing manager Patty Madrid said the purchase of Magic Cream products must be made from Oct. 18 to Nov. 10 from participating outlets in Cebu to be valid for redemption.

MANILA
auto salon
COOL SCENTS

CALIFORNIA SCENTS AT MAS '07
Sophie de los Santos (left), Trade Show International president, and Julie Gamboa, chief operations officer of Keylargo Philippines, signs an agreement for the participation of California Scents as among the exhibitors on the Manila Auto Salon (MAS) 2007-the country's biggest showcase of latest automotive aftermarket technology-to be held at the SMX Convention Center on Seashell Drive, Mall of Asia in Pasay City from Nov. 15 to 18.

RC Makati holds 20th Christmas Bazaar

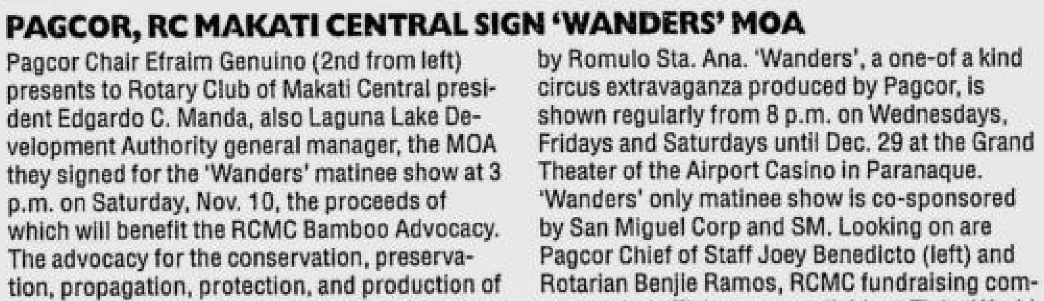
THE ROTARY CLUB OF MAKATI will once again be staging its annual Christmas Bazaar. This year, it will be on Sunday, Nov. 11 at the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila ballroom. On its 20th year, the bazaar has earned a reputation for being the best, most-attended event in Manila. From 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., there will be more than enough time to shop for accessories, Christmas décor, antiques, jewelry, children's clothes, men's and ladies RTWs, linens, and novelty items.

Proceeds from the Christmas Bazaar helps fund medical mission to the PGH, the Save the Eye Outreach Program, which provides free consultation and surgery for indigent eye patients, computer training for out-of-school youth, the Books Across the Sea program (distribution of books to public schools and libraries throughout the country, reforestation of the La Mesa Watershed, and recently, to initiate a community development project for the entire population of families in shanties near the Naia terminal.

You can also choose to do your charity work directly. A hallmark at every Rotary Club of Makati Christmas Bazaar is the Last Angel's table where a Christmas tree will be filled with RC Makati "angels" carrying the names of indigent children you can adopt for Christmas. You can select your own Angel, choose a gift and make their Christmas a truly memorable one.

The Christmas Bazaar with a Heart is organized by the Rotary Anns co-chaired by Mely Hechanova and Nellie Bengzon. Working with them are Tessie Amparo, Milette Carlos, Mimi Valerio, Marilou Alejandro, Terry Tambunting, Teody Buenaflor, Baby Newfield, Menchit Ordoveza, Tesha Garcia, Et Librea, Lu Linjoco, Zeny Floresca, Chit Marty, Tere Boyer, Vicky Cantada, Charina Garcia, Larry Boyer, Jojo Borromeo, Irene Barcelon, Mely Parungao, Maureen Soong, and Lilibeth Herbosa.

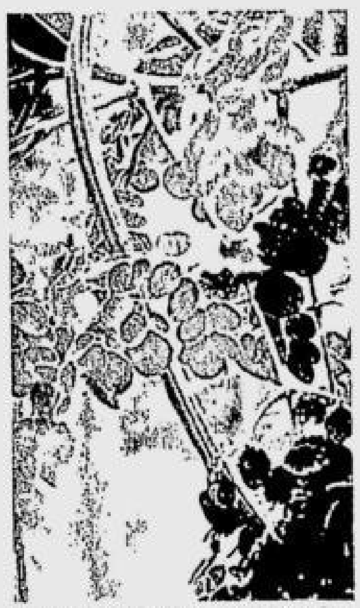
SHOWN SEATED, from left, are Zeny Floresca, Marilou Alejandro, Gio Garcia, Chit Marty, and Mimi Valerio. Standing are: Nellie Bengzon, Menchit Ordoveza, Tesha Garcia, Terry Tambunting, Tessie Amparo, Lil Dominguez, and Jojo Borromeo.



PAGCOR, RC MAKATI CENTRAL SIGN 'WANDERS' MOA
Pagcor Chair Efraim Genuino (2nd from left) presents to Rotary Club of Makati Central president Edgardo C. Manda, also Laguna Lake Development Authority general manager, the MOA they signed for the 'Wanders' matinee show at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 10, the proceeds of which will benefit the RCMC Bamboo Advocacy. The advocacy for the conservation, preservation, propagation, protection, and production of bamboo is being done by RCMC in cooperation with the Philippine Bamboo Foundation chaired by Romulo Sta. Ana. 'Wanders', a one-of a kind circus extravaganza produced by Pagcor, is shown regularly from 8 p.m. on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays until Dec. 29 at the Grand Theater of the Airport Casino in Paranaque. 'Wanders' only matinee show is co-sponsored by San Miguel Corp and SM. Looking on are Pagcor Chief of Staff Joey Benedicto (left) and Rotarian Benjie Ramos, RCMC fundraising committee chair. Tickets are available at TicketWorld outlets (891-9999).

DA pushes planting of more malunggay

By Amy R. Remo



MALUNGGAY is considered a "miracle vegetable"

THE DEPARTMENT OF Agriculture has adopted the lowly malunggay as the chief vegetable crop for its one house, one vegetable program in the Caraga region.

Under the program dubbed Utanon Kada Balay, the DA Caraga Regional Office is providing every household with vegetable seedlings to come up with a backyard vegetable garden for personal consumption.

This malunggay garden can also be a source of feed for animals such as goat, pig, chicken or ducks.

"We are eyeing to distribute 300,000 malunggay seedlings to 100,000 families before the end of the year to help solve the growing problem of malnutrition in the region," said Ricardo Regis, DA Regional Executive Director for the region.

Regis explained that so far, the DA has distributed a total of 53,500 malunggay seedlings to 18,680 families in Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Sur and Surigao del Norte.

The miracle vegetable, he noted, can likewise spur economic activities in the provinces, such as farming for natural ingredients, which is being aggressively promoted by the DA Biotechnology Program Office.

During the 13th Mindanao-Sulu Pastoral Conference last month, Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap distributed malunggay seedlings in Surigao del Norte, as well as farm equipment, including two shredder machines, decorticating machines and shallow tube well.

Yap told guests that malunggay had great agribusiness potential and can help fight hunger and poverty and increase farmers' income as well.

According to Yap, powdered malunggay can be used to fortify noodles, soup or bread with vitamins and minerals of the nutritious vegetable.

Malunggay seeds, which can produce oil, can meanwhile be used by industries to produce items like soap, shampoo, lotion and other personal health care products.

Yap added that this vegetable can also be an alternative source of biofuel.

Also, the leaves of the malunggay fruit can be used as animal feed stock for goat, pig, cattle, chicken and ducks.

Unleashing entrepreneurship

ABS-CBN foundation turns to microfinance to help poor

ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation believes that microfinance is a way to uplift the lives not only of individuals but the whole community as well.

ERIK ARAZAS

THE RISING NUMBER OF MICROFINANCE institutions (MFIs) in the country servicing more than three million clients reflects the willingness of low income groups to borrow money, to start a business, and enhance their small ventures.

Such is the case of Lucena City resident Maria Nerisa Ano, 36, who got a loan in 1998. Through her perseverance, she now has a small piggery aside from owning a modest retail business. This time, she even bought a new stall to expand her business located at the city's public market.

For some MFIs, the relationship with the borrower is just restricted to borrowing the money and paying it. But for ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation, microfinance is a way to uplift the lives not only of individuals but the whole community as well.

"Our clients (the borrowers) are empowered because they are given the chance not only to earn but to change their lives. We boost their entrepreneurial spirit and encourage them to expand their income potentials," said Eduardo Morato, Jr., ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation's president.

Nerisa's business expansion is one of thousands of success stories. However, there is still a need to provide them the skills and business knowledge in order to excel in a competitive environment.

This is why ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation has launched the Grassroots Entrepreneurship Management (GEM) program also known as "Entrep Eskwela."

"Entrep Eskwela is a free training program for Bayan's clients. This program consists of modular entrepreneurial lessons which are developed by experts but can be easily comprehended by emerging entrepreneurs," said Morato.

"The program targets clients who possess a vibrant entrepreneurial spirit and have proven that through the loan, they are able to increase their sales and uplift the quality of lives around them."

Important topics include "Setting the Entrepreneurial Mindset" which is taught on the first day. In this session, participants are exposed to what makes a successful entrepreneur.

Visioning exercise

There is also a visioning exercise where trainers help the participants come up and describe their personal vision of themselves as successful entrepreneurs.

"*Marami akong napag-aaralan sa GEM lalo na sa pagnenegosyo, tamang pagbabudget, at tamang pagmamasid sa kapaligiran* (I learned a lot from GEM especially when it comes to business, right budgeting, and observing the environment)," Nerisa said.

"Our advantage as an MFI is the fact that we give training. Though it is not a requirement for our clients to undergo the GEM, it is a bonus since this is very useful for them. With the GEM, they realize their potentials," explained Katherine Seño, branch manager of ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation Lucena City.

Important lessons

On the other hand, Anita Jaca, 45, is overwhelmed by the learnings that GEM provides. She never skipped the staggered 20-day modular training days due to the benefits she has gained.

"*Na-iadopt ko sa negosyo ang mga* lessons *dahil makabuluhan ang itinuturo sa amin* (I was able to adopt the lessons in my business because what they impart to us is very important)," Anita said.

She also cited the fact that the medium of instruction in the classes is Filipino, which helped her understand fully.

The lessons are likewise complemented by audiovisual materials and participants are encouraged to interact with one another thus broadening their understanding.

The GEM program metamorphosed from the "Bridgecom sa Bayan" training program that ABS-CBN Bayan and Globe Telecom was conducting in 2005. The initial phase of the program benefited both the Globe-sponsored communities and Bayan microentrepreneurs.

Inspired by its success, they ventured out into the Phase II which benefited 3,179 individuals.

This time, ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation involved many communities like Argao (Cebu) Development and Multipurpose Cooperative, Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA) integrees, Cebu's Turismo Rural Foundation (TRF) and Sagip Kapamilya.

Even winners of the Wowowee noontime show were trained because they too can be taught to use the prize money properly.

The experience enabled Bayan to formalize the training, thus Entrep Eskwela was born. Coordinated in partnership with the Center for Community Transformation, they integrated lessons learned during the past program and developed 100 modules in micro and small business entrepreneurship.

"Maria and Anita will get a certification after they complete the training. They can now teach other clients in entrepreneurship at their own communities. Hopefully, this will democratize entrepreneurship in the whole country and encourage Filipinos become empowered entrepreneurs," said Seño.

ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation aims to reach 120,000 microfinance clients through their partners all over their country.

Mom-daughter ...

From page B2-1

In fact the packaging looks more trendy than the packaging of products sold in the Belo Clinics. Toll manufacturers are used for production.

Celebrities like Lucy Torres, Zsa Zsa Padilla and Regine Velasquez now endorse the products, helping greatly in sales and promotion.

The market was identified and to reach out to it immediately and most effectively, Belo chose a popular noon time show to launch the products.

Belo was sharp in the choice of business to let her daughter handle it. But even as a young girl, Cristalle had displayed a deep social awareness.

She went to Bukidnon to teach preschoolers for ten months after graduating from college. She lived on P50 a day.

Vicki Belo feels Belo Essentials' social aspect is providing every Filipino with good beauty products at affordable prices.

Cristalle says she sees Belo Essentials as a product equalizer, "You see both the *amo* and the *yaya* using it."

There are initially six product lines—whitening lotion, whitening lotion with SPF, whitening face wash, pore minimizing face wash, whitening body bar, smoothening body bar.

The price tags are way below the products which the Belo Medical Group is known for. The Obagi system, for example, goes for about P18,000 a set.

Belo Essentials go for P36.75 for the body bar to P167.75 for the bigger bottle of the whitening lotion with SPF.

Belo first dreamed of coming up with an affordable line of beauty products ten years ago. Research and product testing started five years ago.

Her vision: "To help make every Filipino beautiful one face at a time."

Cristalle wanted to help her mother then but it was not clear how and where. She even went to medical school for a year, but decided she was not cut out for it.

She thinks she found her niche in Belo Essentials. "I learn so much and it's fun," she says.

The plan is to launch five new products in five years. Although she would not reveal the investment cost in the business, she says they expect to get their returns in two years.

As early as now, Cristalle balances life with work and spirituality.

She remains active in a youth group in their exclusive village in Makati and relies a lot on the Bible to guide her in life. On the side, Cristalle paints but cannot bear to part with any of her work.

AHEAD celebrates dreams

AHEAD, THE country's leading and most awarded tutorial and review center, will celebrate the dreams that it has helped fulfill for its students for several years now.

The celebration will be held tomorrow night at the Sapphire Room of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Ortigas, Mandaluyong City.

For nearly six years, Ahead has been recognizing its students' achievements by staging a program called a Celebration of Dreams.

The event has been so successful that it won for Ahead the elusive Gold Quill Award from the International Association of Business Communicators in 2003. Other accolades soon followed.

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Not-so-sweet opportunity

SUGARNOT offers sugar-free treats for the sweet-toothed, diabetic or not.

IN THIS AGE OF INSTANT meals, fast-food deliveries and unhealthy food choices, a group of health-conscious foodies and lifestyle wellness advocates have taken the road less traveled to put forth the message that there is a way to curb bad diet habits.

What initially started as an earnest desire of a diabetic to whip up an array of healthy, nutritious, yet delicious food has evolved into a hub of yummy cakes, pastries, sandwiches, soups, pastas and salads that are all low-carb, low-fat—and sugar-free!

"My dad is a diabetic but he is also sweet-toothed. There must be a way, we thought, to not rob him of this little pleasure in life and still watch his health. When he was diagnosed, he thought his food choices would be limited or that the alternatives were too expensive. So we thought of putting up Sugarnot for people like him who love to eat but do not want to feel deprived," says Angeli B. Lambsdorff, one of Sugarnot's partners.

Strong foundation

Confident that health is a strong foundation to build a business on, the people behind Sugarnot spent two years in research and product development before they opened Sugarnot in 2005.

Sugarnot uses Isomalt, a sugar substitute made from beet sugar, for its pastries, cakes, and breads. Among its best-selling sweet concoctions are carrot cakes, mango creme cake, last temptation, strawberry short cake, orange creme cake and tiramisu.

Pretty soon however, it's not just diabetics who found the Sugarnot health proposition sound. Dieters, hypertensives, and health buffs began discovering what Sugarnot was all about.

But it's not only sugar that they had to keep off their food. They have the carbohydrates and the fat contents to deal with.

More efforts were poured into R&D and healthier substitutes were considered and are now being used in Sugarnot's foods that range from the cakes, to pastas, and recently to breakfast fare.

From five branches in SM the Block, Megamall, Podium Westgate in Alabang and South Superhighway, plus a commissary, Sugarnot is ready to share the news of health and good food.

"We initially laid down a very solid ground of product development in opening a sugar-free, low-carb, low-fat bakeshop and deli. When we opened, we were pretty much thinking big and projecting that Sugarnot would be expanding to franchisees once we're ready," explains Wolf Lambsdorff, CEO of Sugarnot.

Like-minded entrepreneurs

Lambsdorff says that more than anything, they are after like-minded entrepreneurs whom they trust will not deviate from the principles on which Sugarnot was built on, meaning the sugar-free, low-fat, low-carb concept will stay untouched.

That's why they are offering versatile options—from over-the-counter take-out set-ups, such as mall-operated kiosk and island types, up to a full sized branch (wall-to-wall) with in- and outdoor seating capacity—so as not to limit the potential partner who may shell out for a franchise fee ranging from P400,000 to P1 million for a five-year franchise agreement, with the option to renew.

Total investment, depending on size and concept will range from P800,000 to P4 million, which includes franchise fee, construction, equipment, fixtures, furniture and all kitchen and dining utensils.

Partners from Cebu, Davao and Cagayan de Oro are on the final stages of teaming up with Sugarnot.

Future partners would easily see that R&D would be the least of their worries as Lambsdorff and his team make sure that Sugarnot comes up with a constantly evolving franchise model that adapts to their niche market.

"We are really focusing on a long-term target, expanding not only in Metro Manila and the rest of the Philippines, but also looking into Asia as well," reveals Lambsdorff.

Serious inquiries from Singapore and Korea have already been considered by Sugarnot as future expansion opportunities.

(For inquiries, log on to www.sugarnot.com.ph or call 8893427; 8435197.)

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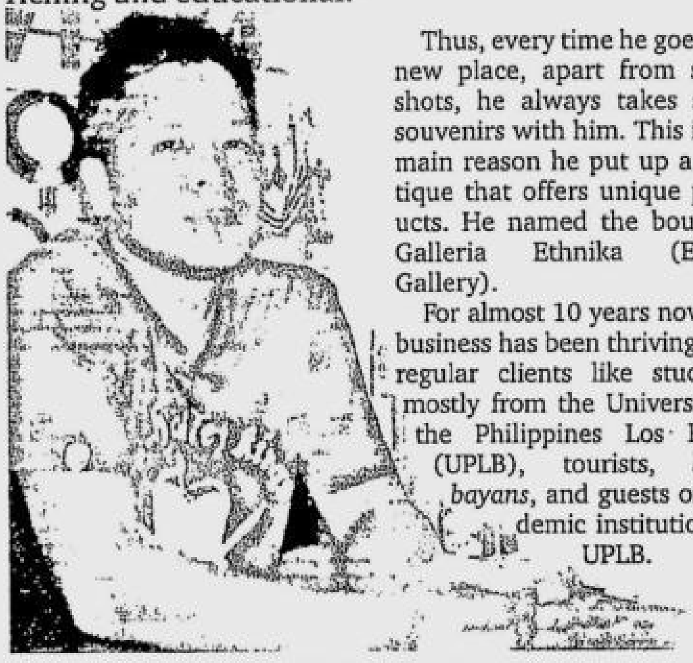
This ad is for announcement purposes only.

Former geologist runs *ethnic* boutique

By Niña Catherine Calleja
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—FOR FORMER GEOlogist Ramon Obusan, 55, traveling is like going to college. Going to different places is "enriching and educational."


RAMON Obusan, owner of Galleria Ethnika.
PHOTOS BY NIÑA CATHERINE CALLEJA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Thus, every time he goes to a new place, apart from snapshots, he always takes some souvenirs with him. This is the main reason he put up a boutique that offers unique products. He named the boutique Galleria Ethnika (Ethnic Gallery).

For almost 10 years now, the business has been thriving with regular clients like students, mostly from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), tourists, *balikbayans*, and guests of academic institutions in UPLB.

JEWELRIES and accessories are available in Galleria Ethnika.

Galleria Ethnika offers ethnic products like pots, bags, jewelries and accessories from different regions in the country. Some souvenir items from Indonesia, Thailand, and Nepal, and T-shirts, which Obusan and his staff designed and printed, can also be found here.

Obusan also includes rare books and tapes that he consigns from an owner of a bookstore in Manila.

Work and travel

After Obusan graduated from the Mapua Institute of Technology with a degree on geology, he immediately worked as a geologist of government agencies like the Commission on Volcanology (now Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology), National Power Corp. (NPC) and the Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC).

He recalled that even as a student, he was already working for his professor Arturo Alcaraz, a known Filipino geologist and 1982 Ramon Magsaysay awardee.

SOME native products of different regions in the country can be found in Galleria Ethnika.

During his work at the PNOC, he handled the exploration work in the Bacon Manito geothermal project in the boundary of Albay and Sorsogon and also had experience working in almost all geothermal areas in the Philippines.

In 1983, he left the country and decided to work abroad. He got a job in Singapore and was assigned to countries like Indonesia, Japan, China and Maldives.

Then he moved to Australia in 1988 where he worked as assistant manager of an Asian ethnic shop, the Eastern Flair, which all the more stoked his

FORMER/ B3-3

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Beyoncé
Singer/Actress
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Beyoncé Giselle Knowles or Beyoncé as she is better known, is one of today's most accomplished and recognizable performers.

At the age of 9, she was a founding member of Destiny's Child which became one of the most successful R&B acts of the new millennium. In 2003, her solo debut album *Dangerously in Love*, garnered five Grammy Awards and three years later, *B'Day* broke the record for first week sales among female solo artists. Her music has been complemented by numerous acting roles including *Dreamgirls*, the film adaptation of the hit Broadway musical.

Despite the long list of accomplishments, Beyoncé continues to look for new challenges. "Everything that I do creatively has to make me work harder and hopefully steer me in a direction I've never been before. I like to challenge myself and all those around me to get the very best creatively," she states.

Pioneer shares this passion to break new ground by providing comprehensive coverage as the official insurer of The Beyoncé Experience Live in Taguig – the concert which brings Beyoncé's music to Filipino audiences.

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Honda lets you ride to paradise

HONDA CONTINUOUSLY STRIVES to contribute to the preservation of our natural resources by creating vehicles that are not only fun and exciting but environment-friendly as well. In fact, all Honda vehicles meet Euro4 standards, meaning they follow very strict guidelines to minimize the amount of pollutants released into the environment.

This Christmas season, Honda gives you a chance to enjoy the beauty of some of the Philippines' remaining natural reserves in Palawan and Bohol.

In Honda's "Ride to Paradise" promo which runs from October to December 2007, six monthly winners will be drawn for a trip for two to Dos Palmas Resort and six monthly winners for a trip for two to Panglao Island Nature Resort. The lucky winners will be spending three days and two nights of relaxation and tranquility in the tropical paradise of Palawan and Bohol.

The Honda City is as captivating as ever with low monthly or low downpayment plans. Experience the City's fuel-efficient i-DSI engine and new enhancements for as low as P7,099 a month with 50-percent down payment or for a minimum cash outlay of P93,750 with 15-percent down payment.

Easy-to-own installment plans are available for the Honda Civic as well. Feel the excitement of the Civic's i-VTEC engine, class-above features and overall style for only P8,966 a month with 50-percent down payment. Opt for the low 15-percent down payment plan and bring home the Civic for as low as P116,550.

This season, Honda takes a proactive stance in its commitment to preserve our natural resources as reflected not only in its products but in its manufacturing process as well. Indeed, driving a Honda provides a sense of social responsibility to nature.

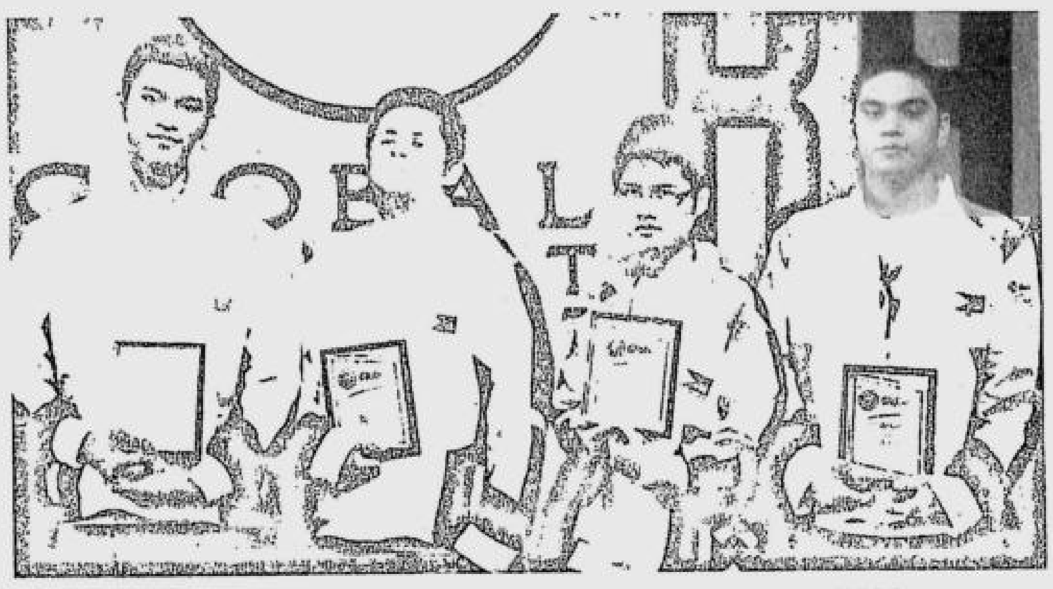
Raffle dates are on Nov. 16, Dec. 14, and Jan 18. For more information, see posters and print ads, or log on to www.hondaphil.com.

P&A PRESENTS 'A STUDY OF DIFFERENCES' TO BIR

As part of its advocacy to enhance taxpayers' understanding of, and compliance with, tax laws, accounting and tax advisory firm Punongbayan & Araullo (P&A) presented its latest publication 'New Accounting Standards and Income Tax Reporting: A Study of Differences' to Commissioner Lilian Hefti (center) of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR). The Study documents the significant differences between the accounting and tax treatments of transactions resulting from the adoption of the new accounting standards, which became effective in the Philippines in 2005 and 2006. It also offers analyses, made by P&A's tax and accounting professionals, and comments on how companies can handle these differences. Also at the presentation were (from left) Marivic Españo, P&A tax partner and the principal author of the study; BIR Deputy Commissioner for operations Nelson Aspe; Benedicta Du-Baladad, head of P&A's tax advisory and compliance division; BIR Assistant Commissioner for assessment Linda Simple; Mai Sigue-Bisnar, P&A audit partner; and Raymund Gallardo, P&A tax partner.

RMHC SUPPORTS BAHAY BULILIT DAY CARE CENTER

Making a difference in the lives of children and orienting them to a life lived in a more positive perspective have been some of the driving forces behind the unwavering support of the Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) to the Bahay Bulilit Day Care Center. The Bahay Bulilit Day Care Center is a program of a tripartite effort of the local government, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and RMHC. RMHC provides for the structure or the building, which will be the venue for the center's activities and projects, while DSWD will provide the manpower needed to supervise the activities of the day care center. Shown are McDonald's George Yang and Kenneth Yang turning over to DSWD Secretary Esperanza Cabral a symbolic structure of the Bahay Bulilit Day Care Center.



GLOBE BROADBAND, E-GAMES PHILIPPINES BACK RP TEAM

As a fulfillment of their thrust to provide the local online gaming community the edge they need for their gaming lifestyle, Globe Broadband and E-Games Philippines joined forces to support the participants in the First RAN Global Tournament held in Bangkok, Thailand where the Philippine Team bagged the second spot. It was victory as well for Globe Broadband and E-Games Philippines, as the Philippine team bested Malaysia and Indonesia in the preliminary round. During the finals, the Philippine team, composed of team captain Benito Carlo David S. Brosas, Ronnuel R. Florida, Adrian Justin N. Magtoto, and Zulius Czar C. Apostol, won the first game in the best-of-three match. But the Thailand team did not give up. Thailand pulled off a come-from-behind victory by taking the second and the deciding third game. As the champion, Thailand received $5,000. The Philippines brought home $3,000. Shown are (from left) Apostol, Magtoto, Florida, and Brosas.

Hyundai bolsters its No. 5 spot

HYUNDAI CONTINUES TO JOIN the ranks of industry giants as it secures its claim of the top 5 spot in the Philippine automotive industry with a market share of 7.14 percent, translating to 6,003 units sold.

On a per segment performance, Hyundai blazes the trail in the commercial vehicle (CV) segment, cornering 4th place with 4,304 units sold to capture 7.9 percent market share. Hyundai bested itself in this segment with as much as 65.2-percent increment from its 5.9-percent market share last year, remarkably outdoing its total units sold from a previous figure of 2,605 units

In the light commercial vehicle (LCV) segment, Hyundai reinforces its performance in the most competitive segments, specifically passenger van (PV), compact SUV (CSUV), mid-size SUV (MSUV), and full-size SUV. Starex, Hyundai's legendary flagship brand, lords over the PV segment with total sales of 2,129 units. Hyundai's continuing dominance in sales of its CRDi-powered PV variants and its strategic move to cater to entrepreneurs with its Starex PRO model further strengthened Hyundai's leadership in the PV segment. Keeping pace with an aggressive sales performance is the Tucson, Hyundai's unforgivably affordable SUV, which recorded 1,335 units sold, comfortably setting Hyundai at the number 2 spot in the CSUV segment. Hyundai posted a remarkable performance in the MSUV segment with the Santa Fe, landing itself at the number 3 spot with sales of 718 units, tripling its 2006 year to date sales of 233 units. Not to be outdone in the FSUV segment is Hyundai's VeraCruz, which ranked 7th place with 33 units sold, translating to 2.9-percent market share, from a virtually zero ranking in 2006.

From last year's number 4 spot in the passenger car (PC) segment, Hyundai jumped to 3rd this year with sales of 1,699 units. Hyundai's significant upsurge in the PC segment is largely attributed to the outstanding performance of the Getz, which recorded sales of 1,606 units, besting last year's sales of 1,248 units, cementing its title as a best-selling hatchback in its class.

With Hyundai's exceptional growth in various segments of the Philippine automotive industry, Maria Fe Perez-Agudo, EVP and chief operating officer of Hyundai Asia Resources Inc, (Hari), is confident that Hyundai will surpass its target for 2007. "As of year to date standings, from January to September, we have increased sales by 47 percent compared to the same period last year, keeping a firm hold of the Top 5 position at 7.1 percent market share, definitely higher than last year's 5.6-percent market share," Perez-Agudo said.

Early this year, Hari launched its 8-8-8 campaign, which targeted an 8-percent market share for Hyundai by selling 8,000 units in 2008. But with Hyundai's continuing upsurge in sales and its commendable share of the market pie, Perez-Agudo is positive that the 8-8-8 campaign may be achieved well ahead of schedule. "Presently, we have already sold 6,003 units and that's just 1,997 units shy of our goal. We are poised for a final quarter storm to fast track our 8-8-8 goals in 2007."

Globe Broadband tourney at SM Mall of Asia

GLOBE BRINGS TOGETHER THE BEST players of RAN Online, and Audition Dance Battle, as they compete in the Globe Broadband Tournament of Champions happening this Nov. 10 at the SM Mall of Asia from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Globe Broadband, in partnership with IP e-Games, Intel and PC Express, takes the champions of RAN Online from Manila, Visayas and Mindanao to Pasay City to find out who among them are the unbeatable and top players of the country's most played massively multiplayer online role-playing game (MMORPG) in the country. Before the actual play-offs, an exhibition game will be held between the RAN Online Global Tournament Philippine representatives and the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao RAN Online champions. Globe will also hold a concert featuring the best Filipino bands such as Yeng Constantino, Hale, Imago, Sandwich, and Sugarfree. They will also hold the Globe Kantabataan Finals Night, which will take place also at the Music Hall of SM Mall of Asia. Whatever subscribers require, there is a Globe Broadband package suited for any need with its affordable and high-speed Internet subscription plans. To subscribe, visit any Globelines payments and services center nationwide or call 919 - 8888 in Luzon or (032) 410-8888 in Visayas and Mindanao.

Get ready for RP-UK Friendship Week November 30 to December 9

THE BRITISH EMBASSY MANILA RECENTLY ANNOUNCED the activities to celebrate Philippine-British Friendship week from Nov. 30 to Dec. 9. Hoping to take advantage of the opportunity to promote responsible business practices and corporate social responsibility (CSR), a series of events will bring together RP-UK stakeholders to comprise a coherent "Business that Cares" campaign. Anchored on the important role that the business sector can play in national development, the British Embassy, together with the British Alumni Association, British Council, and the British Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, will promote health, education, cross-cultural understanding and environmental consciousness. There shall be roundtable discussions with Philippine business directors, a waste management seminar by a trade mission from the United Kingdom, VisitBritain tourism exhibit at the Shangri-la Plaza mall, and a medical mission to Smokey Mountain in Manila. For details, call Aimee Changco at 580-8320 or e-mail imelda.changco@fco.gov.uk.

PHAP holds 28th annual convention, exhibition

THE PRIVATE HOSPITALS ASSOCIATION of the Philippines (PHAP) is an organization of privately owned hospitals composed of about 349 active member-hospitals scattered all over the country. Its goal is to promote general public welfare through the development of excellent and professional hospital facilities, fostering networking and cooperation among private hospitals and promotion of state-of-the-art medical research and other scientific activities for the benefit of the hospital and its clientele.

On Nov. 23 and 24, PHAP will be celebrating its 28th Annual National Convention & Exhibition at the Grand Ballroom of the Hyatt Hotel & Casino Manila. Registration starts at 8 a.m. on Nov. 23. The theme for the convention is "Legislations: Formula for Survival of Private Hospitals?".

Topics covered will include waste management for hospitals, legislations and Supreme Court decisions concerning the industry and updates on the PhilHealth Benchbook. Speakers for the sessions include Department of Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, Senator Francis Escudero and Rep. Arthur Pingoy Jr, Chair of the Committee on Health of the House of Representatives, and other distinguished speakers from the different government agencies and the healthcare private sector.

The registration fee for early bird participants is P2,000 if registered before Nov. 10 and P2,500 after the cut-off date. For inquiries and reservations, interested parties can call the PHAP secretariat at 929-7386.

World Hearts Day celebrated

HAPPY LIFE BEGINS WITH A HAPpy heart. "Team up for a healthy heart"—that is the theme of this year's World Hearts Day celebration. The World Hearts Day was formed to create public awareness of risk factors for heart disease and stroke and to promote preventive measures.

To support this campaign, on Sept. 30 at One Esplanade, Pasay City, there were different activities to encourage the public to have a healthy lifestyle such as mass aerobics, cooking demo, cheering competition, family pics and healthy hearts poster-making competitions. Lifestyle modification is the main advocacy of this event.

In line with this campaign, Welch's 100-percent Grape Juice, promoting a healthy heart, supports the World Hearts Day celebration. Welch's Grape Juice is made of Concord grapes which contain natural antioxidants. Concord grapes contain natural plant compounds called Polyphenols and, in particular, contain a subgroup of Polyphenols called Flavonoids. These Flavonoids are known to function as potent natural antioxidants. Antioxidants are helpful because they help protect cells from the damaging effects of unstable molecules called free radicals. Concord grape juice promotes the flexibility of arteries, which is important to allow increased blood flow when needed, during exercise, and physical activities. Flexible arteries also play an important role in promoting healthy blood pressure. Flavonoids in grape juice, like those in wine, have been shown to prevent the oxidation of so-called bad cholesterol (LDL or low-density lipoproteins) that leads to formation of plaque in artery walls.

Welch's 100-percent Grape Juice, a heart healthy juice with no fat or cholesterol, is certified by the American Heart Association. This association's heart-check mark is your assurance that Welch's Grape Juice can be part of a heart-healthy diet. Drinking 100-percent juice is also an easy way to add a fruit serving to your diet.

Welch's Grape Juice helps the World Hearts Day celebration and encourages regular exercise, reduce weight, smoking cessation and increase the intake of fruits and vegetables.

Buteyko Method workshops for respiratory conditions

SENIOR BUTEYKO METHOD PRACTItioner Jac Vidgen will conduct workshops on Buteyko's method of breathing reconditioning, which has been clinically acknowledged to provide safe, fast and effective relief for asthma, emphysema, allergies, rhinitis, coughing, sleep and anxiety disorders and other stress-induced diseases and respiratory conditions.

The Buteyko workshops, which teach both children and adults special breathing exercises, techniques and lifestyle changes with little or no intrusion to one's daily routine, will be held at PhilDHRRA Partnership Center in Loyola Heights, Quezon City starting this Saturday, Nov. 10, and at In Touch Community Service at Holy Trinity Church complex in Forbes Park, Makati City starting Tuesday, Nov. 13.

Having introduced the Buteyko method in Southeast Asia, Vidgen regularly conducts workshops in Manila, Bangkok and Hong Kong. For inquiries, call 0919-6356060 or 895-6031, e-mail jacvid@attglobal.net or log on to www.buteykoasia.com.

HP perks up 'old' shopping mall image

By Michelle V. Remo

MARK Anthony Macaranas, stall owner, Mark & Mitch blouses.

MITCH REMO

THE FIRST SHOPPING MALL in the country, Harrison Plaza, has always been known for its great bargains.

What you can buy in other commercial areas—from tiny clothing accessories to bulky home furniture—you can probably get at this mall at half the price.

Established in 1976 by the Martel family, Harrison Plaza has brought excitement to Manileños. The mall was said to have inspired the country's retail tycoons to engage in mall operations.

"SM's Henry Sy once said he learned a lot from this mall," said Alita Romualdez-Martel, who, together with husband Rodolfo Martel, is running a commercial area at the mall.

Over the years, however, because much larger and trendier malls have sprouted all over the country, Harrison Plaza may, arguably, have lost its spot as the favorite commercial place for friends and families to hang out.

The two-story Harrison Plaza, whose structure already shows its old age, now pales in comparison with multilevel and flamboyant malls as far as modernity is concerned.

Harrison Plaza though is still able to attract mall goers—especially those that are into bargain shopping.

In a move to spice up Harrison Plaza and make more bargain hunters flock to the mall, Rodolfo and Alita have developed one area of the mall into a commercial center where different types of entrepreneurs can get together.

"The idea is to have one area where a shopper can find almost anything that he or she needs without getting tired of roaming around an entire mall," says Marlou Viola who manages the commercial area.

Called the 259 Commercial Center, the stall operators in this area of the mall offer almost anything under the sun, including trendy ready-to-wear clothes, shoes, stuffed toys, ladies' accessories, home decors, cosmetics, fruits, flowers, delicacies, toiletries, herbal products, eyeglasses, babies' clothes, curtains, beddings, jeans, men's shirts, handicrafts, native bags, sun glasses and many more.

The name "259 Commercial Center" was based on the size of its floor area, which is 259 square meters, explains Alita, sister of former first lady Imelda Romualdez-Marcos.

Stall owners say that what's enticing about 259 Commercial Center, located beside the mall's entrance facing Mabini Street, are its prices.

A buyer can haggle to get the cheapest possible price for an item—a favorite shopping habit for many Pinoys.

Another attraction is the variety and quality of goods offered at 259 Commercial Center, the retailers say.

Many of the products sold are either imported from Hong Kong and Thailand, or exported to various Asian countries.

"Stall owners here try to make their products as diverse as possible to cater to the many shopping wants and needs of customers. This place helps perks up Harrison Plaza," says Mark Anthony Macaranas, co-owner of the Mark and Mitch stall that sells caps and fashionable ladies' clothes imported from Thailand.

At 259 Commercial Center, one may find imported ladies blouses for casual occasions, for office, and for gimmicks at prices as low as below P200.

"Which other malls can you find a set of fashion accessories, including a pair of earrings, necklace and bracelet, for only P65?" said a beaming customer of 259 Commercial Center after making a bargain purchase.

Life-sized stuffed toys that normally cost thousands of pesos in regular toy shops may be bought at only P700 at one of the stalls at 259 Commercial Center.

"Stuffed toys are often a favorite gift item, but they are normally expensive. Customers like me who find this place are happy being able to buy much cheaper toys," says a customer named Mary-Anne.

Rose Amiado, owner of the stall selling various kinds of door chimes, candle holders and antique gift items, say her products, some of which come from Antipolo, are exported to different Asian countries.

259 Commercial Center, which had its soft-opening in September, is a one-stop shop offering for old Harrison Plaza customers and for new ones who are in constant search for bargain items.

GOINGS-ON

2nd business mission to Vietnam set

MORE THAN 100 Filipino businessmen are expected to join the 2nd Philippine-Vietnam Business Mission to be held from Nov. 26-30, 2007 in Ho Chi Minh City, according to Willy E. Arcilla, president of Business Mentors Inc. and regional director of ZMG Ward Howell Inc. The 2nd mission is supported by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Vietnam Embassy representing the various government ministries and is being co-organized with the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The members of the mission will consist of senior executives and entrepreneurs from different sectors of Philippine economy—agriculture and aquaculture, food and beverage manufacturing, processing and packaging, fashion and apparel, furniture and handicraft, electric power generation and distribution, real estate and construction of residential, commercial and industrial projects, banking and finance, stock market brokers, computer software solutions, information and telecommunications, education and health, and franchisors of different businesses—and from different levels of Philippine business—small and medium-scale enterprises as well as large conglomerates given the important role each one plays in the ecosystems of both countries' economies. They will be meeting with potential partners for customer-supplier relationships or joint ventures in business matching and networking sessions. They will also listen to detailed briefings from the VCCI, Citibank, Ernst & Young, the Satra Group (the largest government-owned corporation in the South) and the Loma Group (the largest provider of logistics services and fast-becoming the largest real estate developer), and meet with Filipino expatriates based in Vietnam who will share their best practices and tips for successfully doing business in Vietnam. Interested parties may call Sheryn de Guzman of ZMG Ward Howell at 8162466.

Earn from making soap

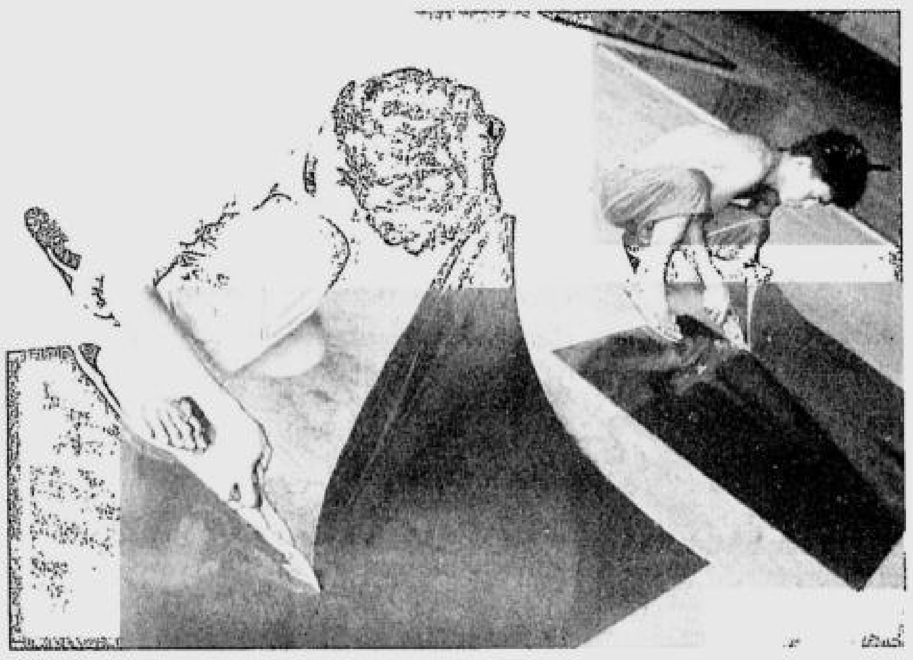
THE GOLDEN Treasure Skills Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on soap-making at the College of Social Work and Community Development, Magsaysay Avenue University of the Philippines, Quezon City on Nov. 17, Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Topics to be discussed include sourcing of materials and costing, entrepreneurship on how to start and maintain a business. Participants will learn how to make liquid dishwashing soap, liquid hand soap, liquid all-purpose soap, bar detergent soap, herbal bath soap (papaya, kalamansi, cucumber, oatmeal etc.) glycerin (transparent bath soap) powder soap. Bonus courses include making liquid bleach, tile and bowl cleaner, fabric softener, car shampoo, tire block, glass cleaner and air fresheners. For questions, call 421-15-77; 436-78-26; 913-65-51; and 433-76-01.

Ifugao out to be top coffee producer

IFUGAO Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. has recently partnered with the Figaro Foundation Corp. to organize the provincial-wide Coffee Congress, which was held last Oct. 16 at the Lagawe Central School . The whole-day event started with a ceremonial coffee tree planting followed by a series of presentations on research, trends and accomplishments; discussions of Ifugao's potential as a top coffee producing region, particularly of the Arabica variety. Coffee is the part of the One Town One Product of the province of Ifugao, thus efforts will be made to promote Arabica as the major crop of the province. Figaro Coffee Co. CEO Pacita U. Juan was represented by Figaro Foundation consultant Dr. Alejandro Mojica PhD, who discussed the highlights of the coffee industry relevant to the congress theme "Paving the way for an alternative and sustained source of livelihood for the Ifugao Farmers." The congress was also attended by the Cordillera Coffee Board, Aboitiz CSR manager Rodolfo Azanza, numerous coffee growers, and representatives from regional offices of DTI and DA, as well as Lagawe Mayor Ceasar Cabigat. Also present during the event were Figaro Foundation program officer Joed Alcid and foundation consultant DED's Roland Ferstl who both supervised the workshop activity in the afternoon.

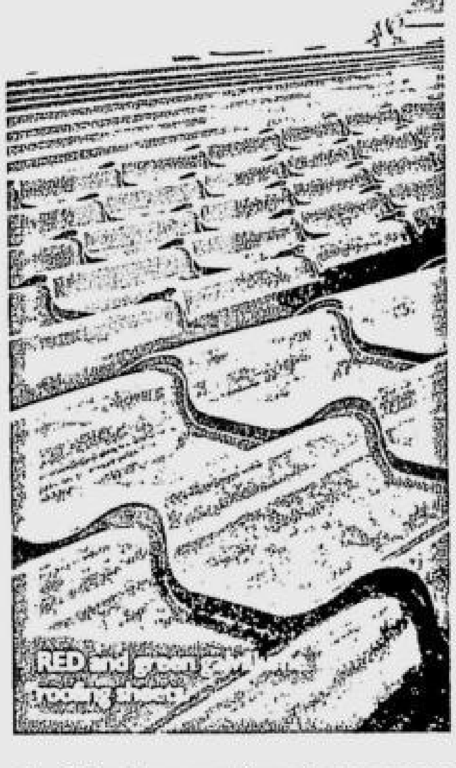
Metal roofing manufacturing plant up in Bicol

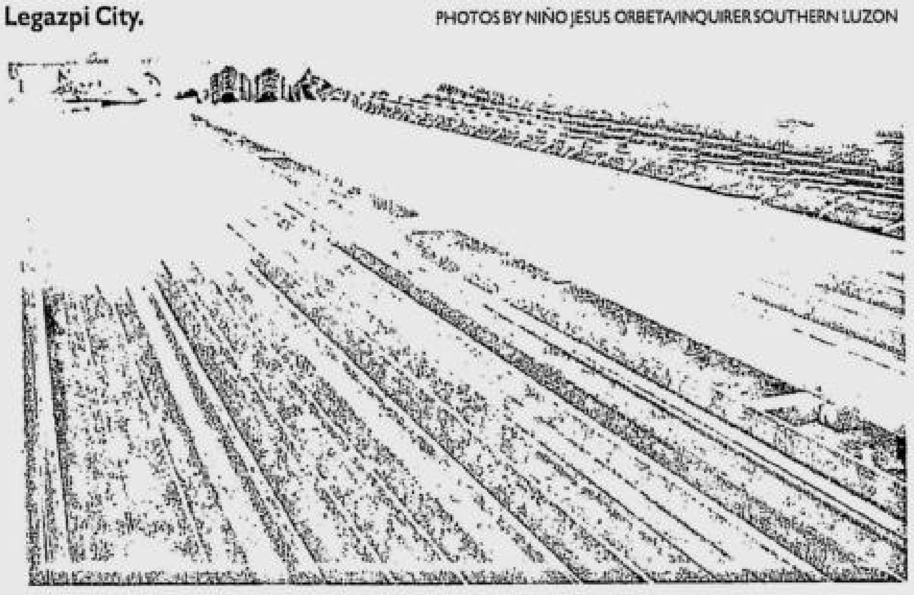
By Jaymee T. Gamil
Inquirer Southern Luzon



PLAIN sheets at the warehouse of Bicol Premium Steel Corp. in Barangay Bonot, Legazpi City.

PHOTOS BY NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON





GALVALUME is made from aluminum-zinc alloy, galvanized iron and other steel sheets, which makes the material more durable and rust-resistant.

LEGAZPI CITY—IN THE WAKE OF supertyphoons Milenyo and Reming late last year, Bicol-based hardware dealer Jose "Chingsan" Rañola observed that speedy rehabilitation in the region was hampered because major construction supplies still needed to be imported from Metro Manila.

The situation prompted him and other local entrepreneurs to collaborate with PhilSteel Ventures Inc. (PhilSteel) in putting up Bicol Premium Steel Corp. (BPSC) in October.

BPSC is currently the only manufacturer of metal roofing materials, steel frames and steel decks in the region.

"For supply to be nearer to the Bicol market, production should also be moved to Bicol," Rañola, BPSC general manager, said.

He added that they aimed to shorten to one to two days the delivery of orders that used to take two to three weeks to deliver.

"After Typhoon Reming, everyone was in a hurry to rebuild their homes. It was evident there was an urgent need here for faster supply of building materials," Rañola said.

The BPSC is the sixth PhilSteel joint venture company in the Philippines, with other groups based in Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo, Dagupan and Zamboanga.

"To my knowledge, BPSC is currently the only metal roofing manufacturer in the region," Rañola said.

He said those who had formerly invested in the same venture in Bicol have closed down due to high electricity costs.

Rañola said BPSC took the risk nevertheless, assured of the high demand here and of the consumers' willingness to pay for faster service.

Customized

An accessible manufacturing plant means consumers could place more customized orders, he said.

"Metal roofing sheets in the market are usually already 'cut-sized' to a standard length of 12 feet. We can offer custom length sheets, particularly those that are long-span. We could 'cut-to-size' up to 16 feet long, and 4 feet wide instead of the usual 3," Rañola said.

If roofing sheets are longer and wider, there would be fewer seams and overlaps in roof construction, which would mean less leaks, he added.

Under PhilSteel, BPSC also offers a variety of prepainted metal roofing sheet profiles ranging from ordinary corrugated to spandek tiles.

PhilSteel and its affiliates are also the only manufacturing groups in the Philippines licensed to use "Galvalume" as base material for roofing sheets, whereas most manufacturers in the country only use galvanized iron (GI).

"Galvalume is produced when 55 percent aluminum-zinc alloy is coated on GI and other steel sheets, which makes the material more durable and rust-resistant," Rañola said.

BPSC also offers Galvalume framing and decks as firmer substitutes to wood frameworks.

Although set at competitive prices, the Galvalume roofing sheets are expected to be more expensive than the commonly available GI sheets.

Worthwhile investment

But Rañola pointed out it would be a worthwhile investment and could provide long-term savings.

"Initially, our market price will seem higher than more commonly available GI sheets. But considering Galvalume sheets can last 10 years longer than ordinary GI sheets, it will be worth it in the long run. You can also save on roof repair in the future," he said.

Rañola said their customers had found their prices fair so far, and that consumers were willing to pay extra for faster service, quality material and custom-made products.

As of their opening at the start of October, BPSC have already received orders totaling 100 tons of Galvalume roofing sheets.

"We have already started production in October and stocked our warehouses in Barangay Bonot in Legazpi City and at the Diversion Road in Naga City. The machinery will arrive in Bicol by November, and the plant will be fully operational by December," he said.

Former geologist runs ethnic boutique

From page B3-1

fascination for ethnic products.

After three years, he came back to the Philippines and started a consultancy business with his former colleagues.

Eventually, Obusan got tired of the work. "It was as if I was living in the airport," he said.

In 1998, he started a small shop with mostly printed T-shirts as its products. But, when he included trinkets, accessories and other ethnic products, he was amazed at how fast they were sold out. He thought, "Why not change into something ethnic?"

Since then, he has been traveling at least twice a year, either within the country or abroad, in search of handsome ethnic pieces.

"I really have not retired from traveling," he noted. He said he continues to enjoy attending international trade shows.

Although his childhood was spent mostly in Camarines Norte, Obusan began to love staying in Los Baños where his sister was working.

"I bought a land, built a house, and decided to settle here with a business," he said.

According to Obusan, his main purpose in starting this business is to offer things that you cannot easily buy in the market. "I want to run a store, which is unique and has hard-to-find things," he said.

Downturn

Galleria Ethnika was fast growing from 1998 to 2002 so that Obusan even opened a branch in Calamba City.

Starting in 2003, Obusan said, the number of sales started to go down such that he had to close down the branch in Calamba and reduce the number of his employees.

"The slump became even more felt after EVAT. We could feel it, people now don't have enough money," he said.

He said the people are now more concerned with the basics like food.

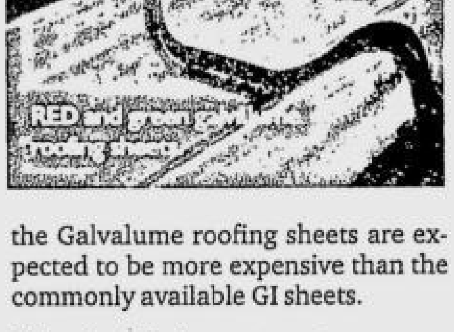
"I don't agree with what the government is saying that we have a 7.5-percent growth because we don't feel it," he stressed.

Obusan has regular clients, but the turnover is declining. He said he often asks "Oh, what seems to be the problem?"

A strategy that helped him thrive was to put up more of the smaller things in the shop like accessories for cellular phones, bracelets and bookmarks. "Give what the customer wants," he said, adding, however, that his boutique has remained ethnic.

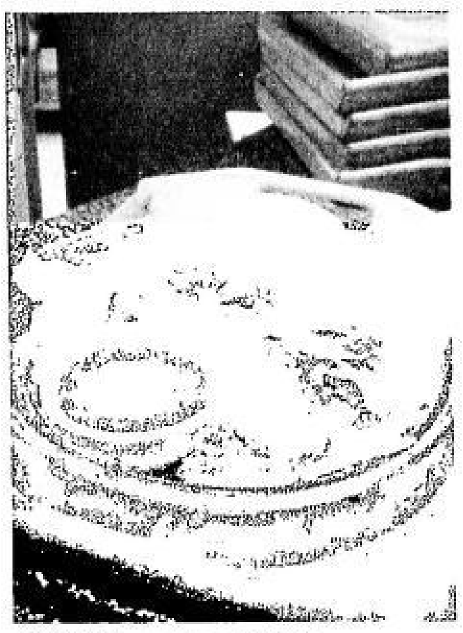
Asked why he still wants to pursue the business despite the downturn, Obusan said it gives him fulfillment. "The good part of this is I travel to see places. It is both work and leisure."

"I think when you have a business, it is not really money most of the time, it is the passion you have for what you are doing. I will not stay for 10 years without this," he added.



ATTRACTIVE ethnic pieces from Obusan's boutique

SOME of what Basti's Brew offers



SNACKS are also available

Basti's Brew: Just *good* coffee

Text and Photos by Joselle Badilla
Inquirer Mindanao

> Owners' creed: 'You are what you give. When customers are well taken cared of, they will speak highly of you'

DAVAO CITY—FOR THE past 10 years, the city's second coffee shop has been serving coffee to discriminating buds here.

But being the "mere" second did not put Basti's Brew on the bottom of the brewed coffee market.

From 1997 until today, their first outlet at the Victoria Plaza Mall here has already served more than 600,000 cups of coffee and the number of consumers is still growing.

The idea of putting up a coffee shop, according to Giovanni "Bong" Aportadera, one the owners of Basti's Brew, struck him while frequenting a coffee kiosk with his wife in Manila.

"We both love coffee and we always go to the mall. My wife told me maybe it's good to put up a small business in Davao so that we will have fallback," he said.

When he went back to Davao, Aportadera said he met fellow Atenean Randall Ong, who happened to have a family-owned appliance shop inside Victoria Plaza.

"Then we talked about my plans of putting up a business and he offered some help," Aportadera said.

ONE of the Basti's Brew owner, Giovanni "Bong" Aportadera, at work

So from that small talk with Ong, Aportadera and another partner—Ross Juson—put up about P1.2 million, from personal savings and bank loans.

After several days, the coffee shop started to operate.

"That time there were no other suggestions of what the name of the shop would be so we named it after my first born, Sebastian," he said.

"We opened on Oct. 10, 1997 when Davao was not that receptive to coffee being priced that high yet. It was really *pahirapan* from 1998 to 1999, to the point of considering closing. We thought of closing it," he said.

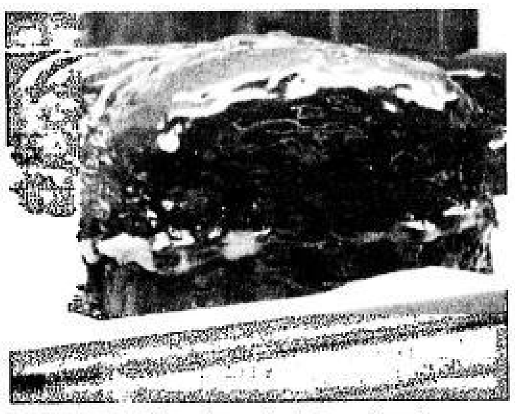
But they did one last thing before deciding to part ways.

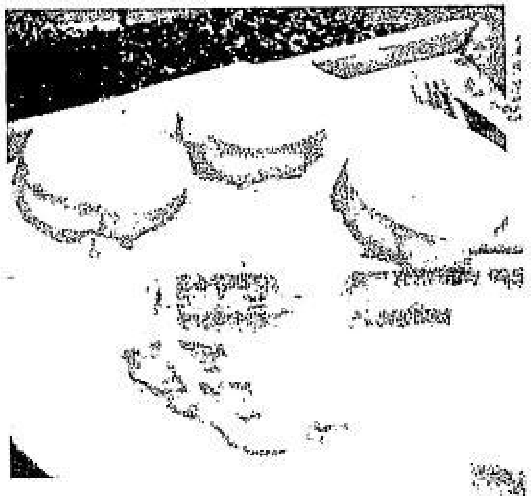
Aportadera said they re-priced their coffee and introduced an expanded menu.

The strategy proved to be effective. From 1,500 cups a month, sales steadily rose to 7,500 cups. So they decided to open a second branch along Legaspi Street. The new branch had fewer customers than expected. It just served 400 cups per month.

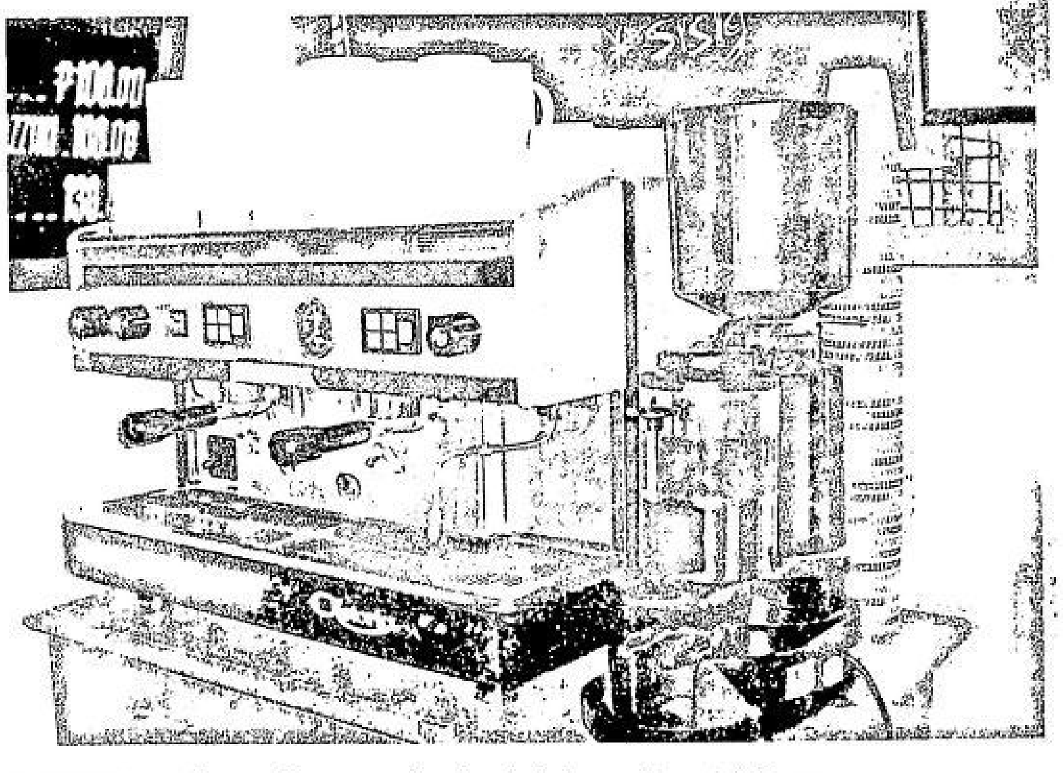
But then, like the Victoria experience, coffee lovers started to find out about it and sales went up to 1,500 cups per month.

"The bottom line is coffee. Good coffee and no frills. You don't have to be a classy place, *basta masarap lang ang kape*," Aportadera said.





CHOCOLATE moist cake (above) and carbonara (below)



BASTI'S first coffee machine, now placed at their Legaspi branch in Davao.

In 2002, Basti's Brew tied up with Globe Telecom and introduced a wireless connection to its customers.

It became the first WiZ (wireless Internet zone) coffee shop in the whole of Mindanao.

"They say WiFi is for the upscale market only. Two things, that time we believe it was the next best thing to connectivity, to people for expats and agents. It will particularly benefit customers: They will easily be connected to the Internet. Coincidentally, Globe saw the opportunity," he said.

To prop up more interest, Basti's Brew also started in-store promotions.

"We used the concept that if payday falls on Friday, everything goes down to 50 percent and the customers get 50 percent off on all orders. But it was also bad. Bad in the sense that it's SRO (standing room only). Customers wait to be seated," he said.

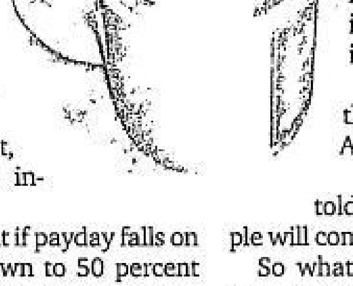
Today, Basti's Brew employs 22 staff. But unlike other small companies, Basti's Brew has a human resource department.

"We don't call them employees. We are team. We want it homey," Aportadera said.

In fact it was really a team business that every two years, an officer-in-charge is named.

"You get to operate the business for two years after that we compare notes. We ask questions, How did you do this approach, how did you do that, etc," he said. One rule is for us to trust who is leading the business," he said.

"What we like in each other is that it's a leadership by example. If one is cleaning, the rest will clean also."



Then expansion got into their minds.

From just coffee, the menu now included rice meal.

"But the bottom line is still coffee. At the end of the day during inventory, other specialty stay as is," he said.

Aportadera said he owed part of the success from his father Dr. Rizal Aportadera, a veteran surgeon.

"He was one of the reasons. He told me if you serve good coffee, people will come back," he said.

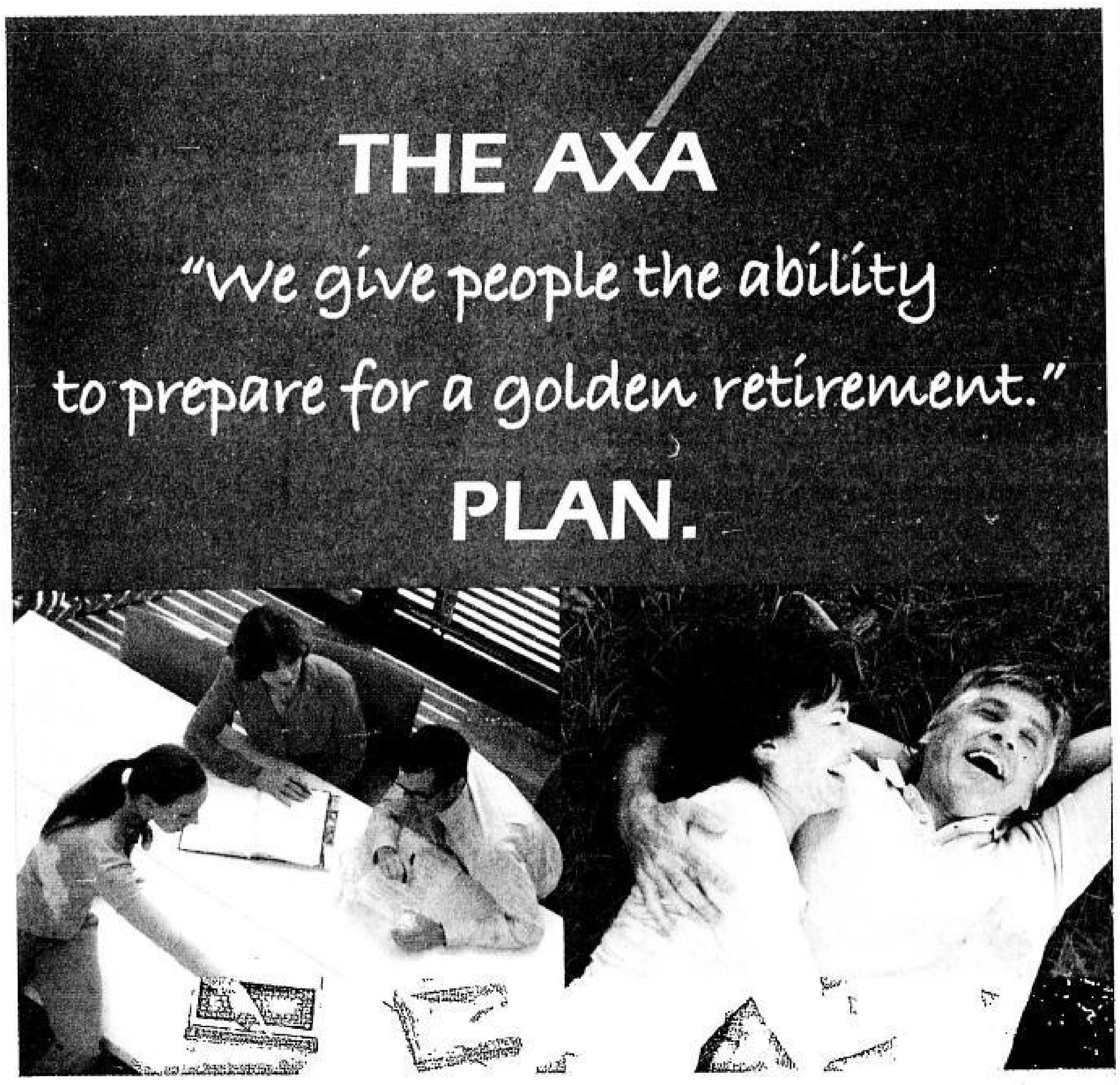
So what are the other techniques Basti's Brew has adopted to success?

"Never shortchange your people. You are what you give. When customers are well taken cared of, they will speak highly of you," Aportadera said.

So is the mushrooming of coffee shops in the city a threat to Basti's Brew?

Not at all, says Aportadera.

"Not everyone knows this but we even help small coffee shops here. After all we are just one big community. A big coffee community," Aportadera said.



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MUTUAL FUND INVESTING: THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

1. **Thou shall know what thou want.** Why are you investing? Is it to receive regular income or to stay invested and sufficiently grow your money for future use? Before choosing any fund, you must examine yourself first and know your answers to these types of questions. If you think you will need your money in less than a year, money market funds may be suitable for you. But if you think you can leave your money in the fund for 2-3 years, bond funds are the absolute way to go.

2. **Thou shall know what thou not want.** What is your threshold when it comes to risks? Will you be able to sleep if the price of the fund has the potential to move by 3%-4% daily? Study the fund's prospectus and check its investment outlets. Funds that have investments in equities are inherently more volatile and risky but offer more investment return potential.

3. **Thou shall examine the fund's fees.** Sales charges (loads), management fees and early redemption fees are the most common fees that most mutual funds charge. As an investor, attention must be paid to these details as these will significantly affect your returns.

4. **Thou shall pick a reputable fund manager.** Know who is managing the fund that you are about to purchase. After all, these are the people to whom you are entrusting your hard-earned money to.

5. **Thou shall pick a well-managed fund.** One indicator of a well-managed fund is the stability of the fund's returns not only in a short period of time but over the years. Learn and check out the basic RETURN over RISK principle (sharpe ratio) and choose the fund with the highest ratio. You deserve no less than an investment that gives the best possible return given the level of risk taken by its Fund Manager.

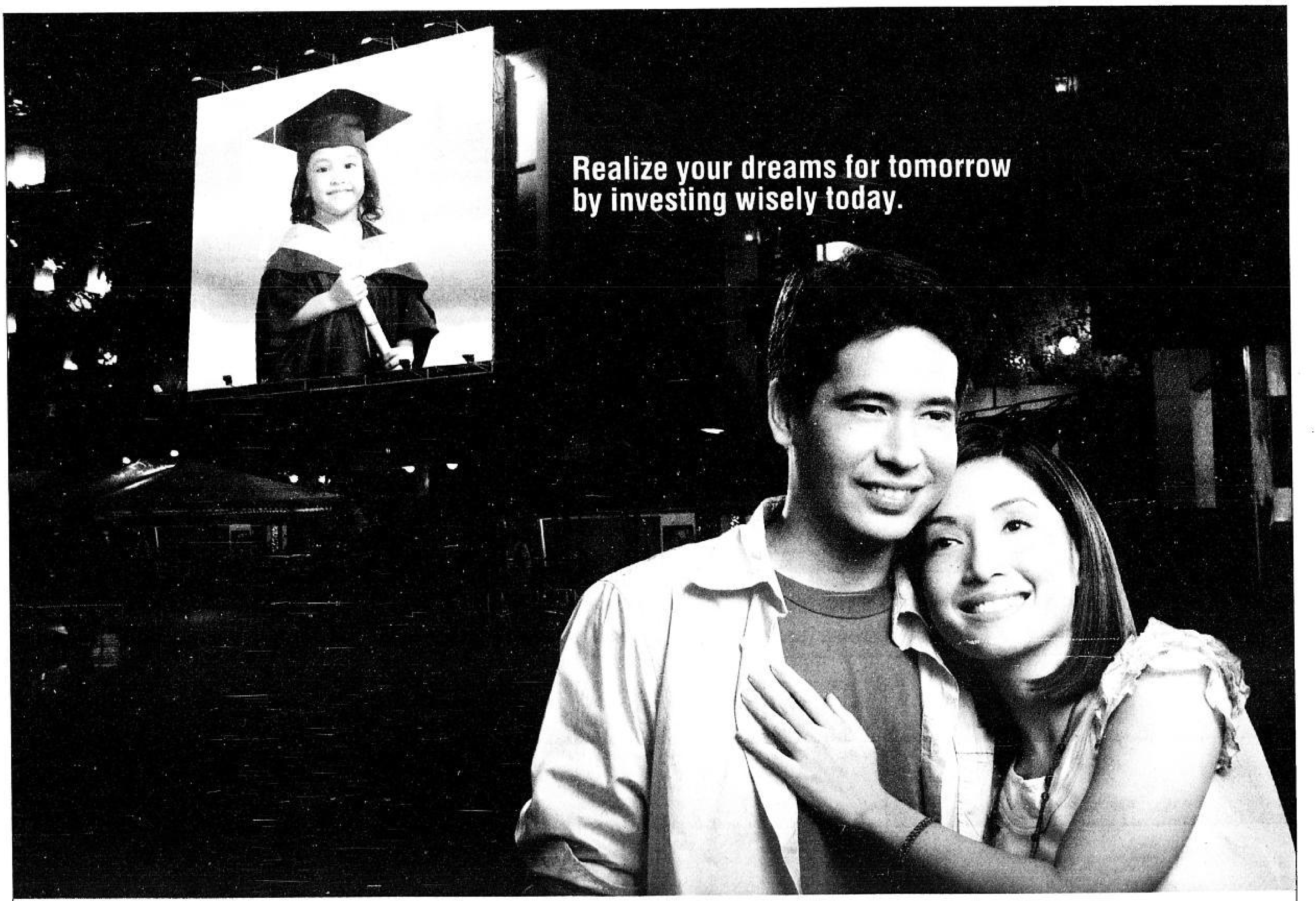
6. **Thou shall not covet a fund due to returns alone.** Of course the performance of a fund matters! But it should not be the "be all and end all" in choosing which fund to purchase. Why? Refer to Commandments 1 to 5.

7. **Honor thy investment strategy.** Do not let your emotions get the best of you. Do not redeem your shares just because everybody else is doing it. Premature redemption of shares increases your chances of selling below your original purchase price. Most funds like bond funds tend to be less volatile when held over a longer period of time. You must have the discipline to stick to your investment strategy if you want to achieve your investment goals.

8. **Thou shall not make wrongful use of historical returns.** Keep in mind that these are PAST returns and just give an indication on how the fund performed over a period of time. You should not assume that you will earn the same returns once you get in the fund.

9. **Thou shall aim to diversify.** Although investing in mutual funds is already a good way of attaining the benefits of diversification, you can diversify further by putting money in several types of mutual funds. Example, for investors with moderate risk tolerance, it is always a good move to invest in both stock and bond mutual funds, since bonds and stocks typically move in different directions.

10. **Thou shall be an ALFM Family Investor.** The ALFM Family predominantly leads the local bond mutual fund industry now with more than 60% of the industry's market share. Its share of the pie continues to grow as more ALFM Family investors experience the Funds' real NET benefits. Note that based on the latest ICAP data (06 November 2007 Year-to-Date ROI of mutual funds), ALFM Family continues to OUTPERFORM similar major funds. Not only that, ALFM Family also registers the best return-to-risk ratio in the industry. Plus, with ALFM Funds' "no sales load" feature, the published returns are exactly what you as an investor will receive upon redemption. And last but not the least, ALFM Peso Bond Fund provides free life insurance coverage worth Php200,000.00 to eligible investors who initially invest at least Php100,000.00 in the fund.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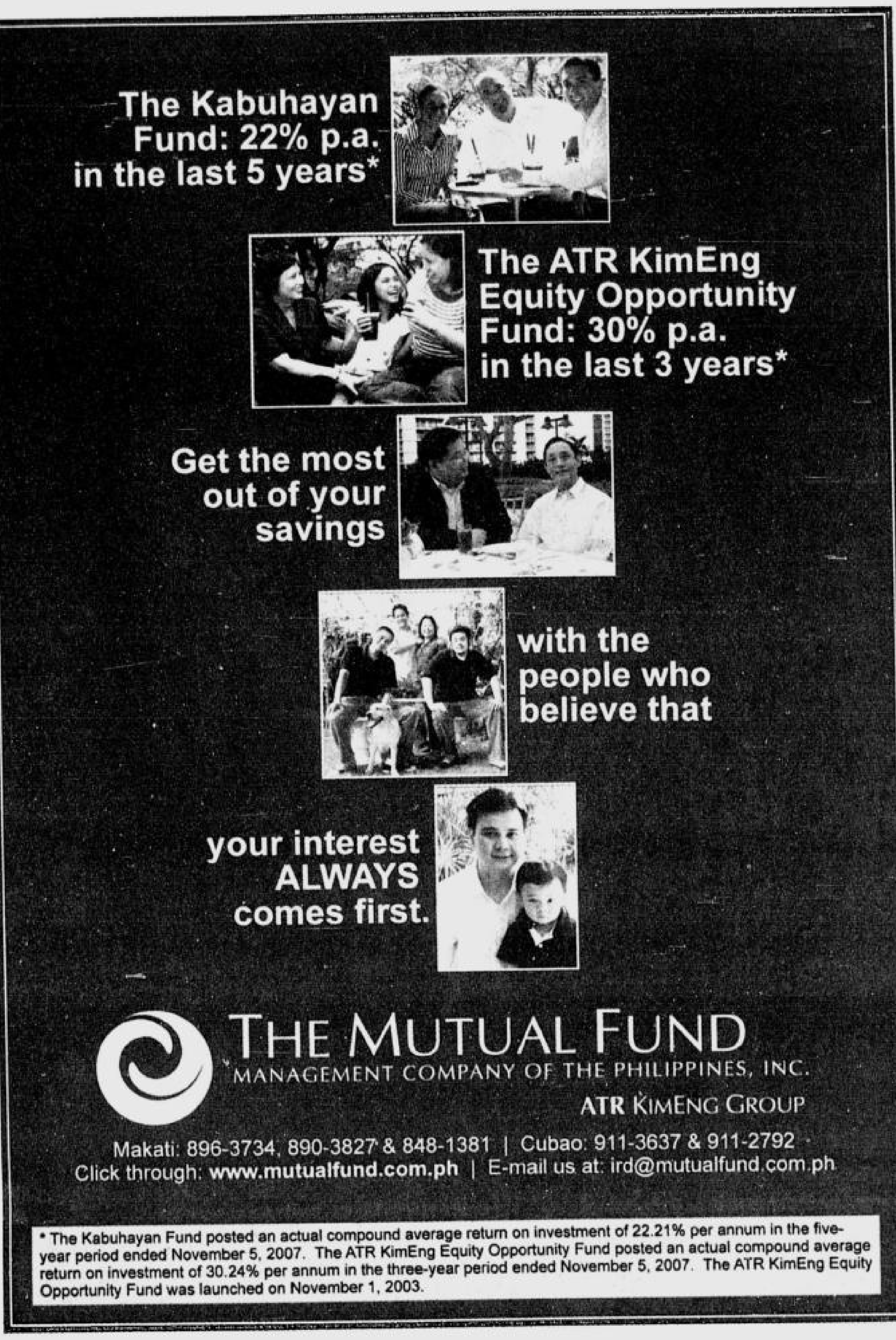
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* The Kabuhayan Fund posted an actual compound average return on investment of 22.21% per annum in the five-year period ended November 5, 2007. The ATR KimEng Equity Opportunity Fund posted an actual compound average return on investment of 30.24% per annum in the three-year period ended November 5, 2007. The ATR KimEng Equity Opportunity Fund was launched on November 1, 2003.

2007 INVESTMENT COMPANY OF THE PHILIPPINES (ICAP) – BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES (standing from left to right) Carlos M.T. Ylagan, Fernando Jose Sison III, Ignacio B. Gimenez, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Artemio A. Tanchoco, Jr., Efren Ll. Cruz, President and Edwin B. Valeroso. (Sitting from left to right) Karen Liza M. Roa and Ma. Goretti Jimenez.

Objectives

ICAP was established to ensure the glorious rebirth of the Philippine Mutual Fund Industry through its programs and activities. ICAP envisions achieving the following:

1. Contribute to nation building through the effective mobilization of long-term savings by increasing the citizenry's awareness regarding investments.
2. Protect the interests of the investing public and make them more knowledgeable about their investment options and risk exposures.
3. Partner with government by assisting, coordinating and cooperating with relevant regulatory agencies, led by the Securities and Exchange Commission.
4. Foster the growth of the Philippine Mutual Fund Industry through the institution of the standards of excellence in the operations of Philippine investment companies.

What mutual funds are

When you invest in a mutual fund, your money is combined with the money of many other investors. Professional fund managers use this pool of money to create a portfolio of investments, which may include:

- Stocks: ownership shares in publicly held companies
- Bonds: interest-bearing certificates issued by governments and corporations
- Money Market Securities: short-term instruments, such as Treasury bills and certificates of deposit, that mature in less than one year

Each mutual fund has specific investment goals that can range from long-term growth to current income. In addition, a fund may invest in specific types of investments to reach its goals, such as dividend-paying stocks, international investments or long-term bonds. Owning shares of a mutual fund is similar in some ways to owning shares of stock in an individual company. The mutual fund company will ask you to vote for its board of directors and to help determine other company matters. The mutual fund also may pay you dividends from the securities in which it invests or capital gains that the fund made from selling securities.

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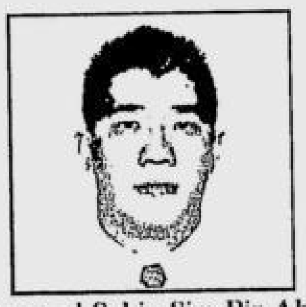

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ICAP Investment Company Association of the Philippines

Top three benefits of mutual funds

According to mutual fund investors, the most important benefits of mutual fund investing are professional management, investment diversification and convenience.

- **Professional management**. You can rely on the expertise of professional portfolio managers to select investments for the fund. This can be especially valuable during times of volatile prices and uncertain market direction.
- **Investment diversification.** A mutual fund allows you to spread your money among many different securities. Whether you invest in one mutual fund or several, keep in mind that your investments should include a mix of stocks, bonds and money market securities to lower your overall investment risk.
- **Convenience**. It's easy to buy and sell mutual fund shares, exchange shares between funds and reinvest your distributions of dividends and capital gains.

Issues in selecting funds for you

When selecting or evaluating a mutual fund, look at the fund's performance over the long term. Consider periods such as one year, five years and 10 years. Keep in mind that past performance is no guarantee of future results. And there are important factors to consider in addition to a fund's performance. For example:

- Your risk tolerance and investment time horizon
- The funds objectives and its fund manager's investment style
- The tenure of the fund's manager(s)
- The stability of the fund company
- The fund's compatibility with your investment goals
- The fees associated with investing in the fund

Analyzing these factors and long-term performance can provide you with a complete picture. Be sure to read the prospectus carefully before investing or sending money. A mutual fund's prospectus includes details of its objectives, investments, fees and other information.

First Metro Investment
welcomes another milestone in its efforts to be a primemover in the development of the Philippine capital markets.

In 2004, First Metro Asset Management, Inc. (FAMI) was formed with the Catholic Education Association of the Philippines and Marist Brothers Foundation to engage in the mutual fund business, advocate investment literacy and promote savings mobilization.

ICAP
(The Investment Company
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Equity Fund Category
1st Place 1-year return of 67.48%
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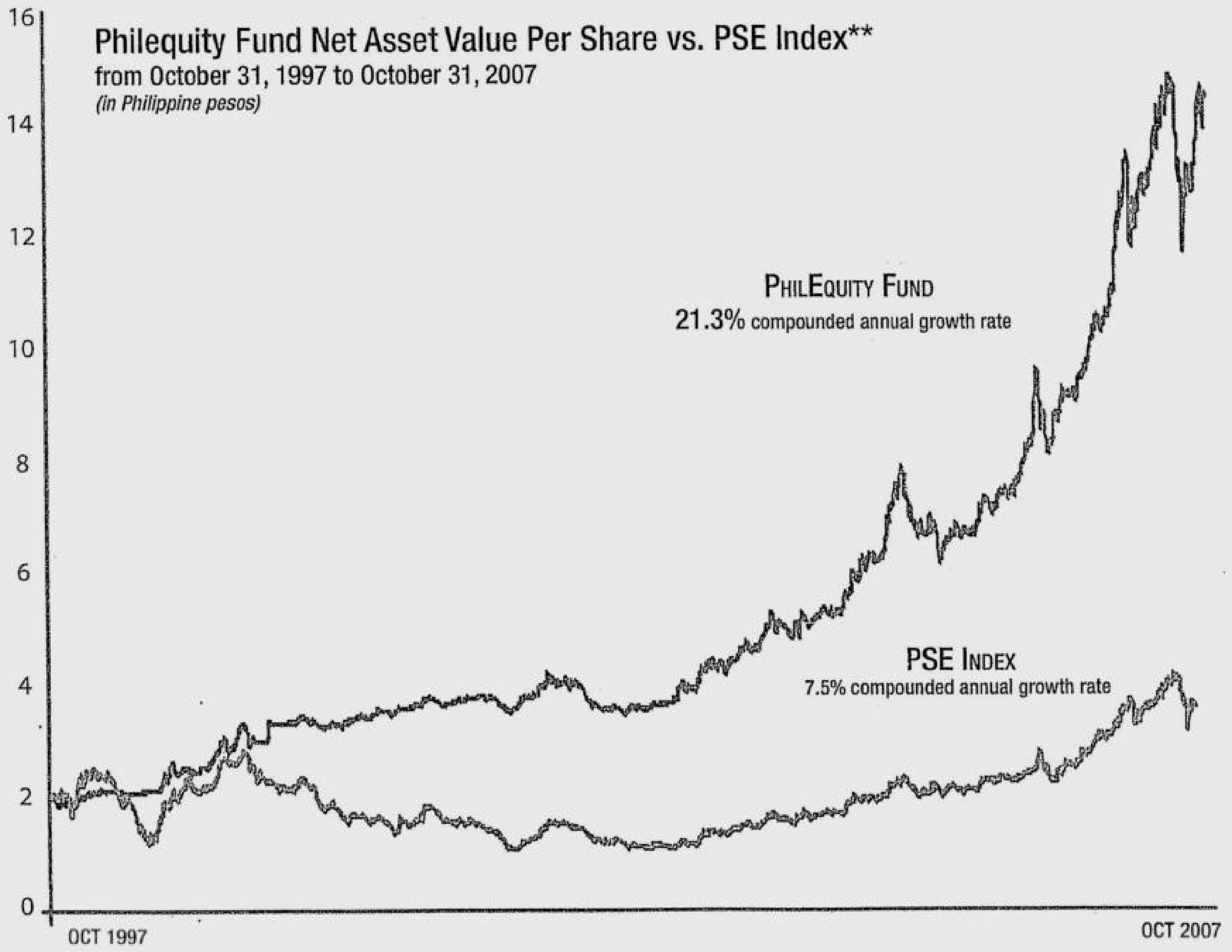
SUPERIOR RETURNS TESTED THROUGH TIME


Philequity Fund Net Asset Value Per Share vs. PSE Index**
from October 31, 1997 to October 31, 2007
(in Philippine pesos)

Through the stock market's ups and downs, Philequity Fund has consistently delivered superior returns. Over the past 10 years, the Fund returned 21.3% annually vs. 7.5% for the Philippine Stock Exchange Index. This feat the Fund achieved while exposing investors to lower risk.*

Philequity Fund is also the recognized leader among its peers. The Investment Company Association of the Philippines awarded Philequity Fund as the top performing equity mutual fund for the 10-, 5- and 3-year periods ending 31 December 2006.

Start earning superior returns today.
**Call us today at 689 8080
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* Based on standard deviation of returns
**Normalized values based on daily PSEi % changes

PHILEQUITY FUND, INC. IS THE BEST PERFORMING EQUITY FUND IN THE 10-YEAR, 5-YEAR AND 3-YEAR RETURN CATEGORIES AS AWARDED BY THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES LAST APRIL 2007.

PHILEQUITY
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FUND MANAGER FOR PHILEQUITY FUND, INC

Past performance is,not indicative of future performance. Market conditions will vary from time-to-time hence, the NAVPS and the corresponding yield of the fund will vary as well

ICAP **Investment Company Association of the Philippines**

Creating long-term value for Filipinos

FILIPINOS WHO HAVE DISCOVERED THE BENEFITS OF INVESTING are part of a growing community who has, inevitably, experienced prosperity. The Investment Company Association of the Philippines exists to promote and protect the long-term investments of this community, and, consequently, foster a national community of Filipinos who are able to participate in and share in creating value, not only for them, but for the country.

Today, ICAP celebrates its 12th Year Anniversary as an advocate organization not only because it serves as a forum for investment companies to come together and recognize excellence among its members, but also because it provides the investor community with a public service that can go along way toward ensuring greater prosperity.

A mutual fund investment is an investment idea whose time has come for Filipinos. ICAP takes the lead in informing and educating the public about its manifold benefits, and, at the same time, assumes an aggressive role in protecting them, through greater consumer awareness, and fostering a responsible and accountable mindset among its member companies.

'The Investment Company Association of the Philippines exists to promote and protect the long-term investments of this community, and, consequently, foster a national community of Filipinos who are able to participate in and share in creating value, not only for them, but for the country'

In the new millennium, mutual funds have grown at a pace which will make the industry a stronger one to deal with in the near future. The industry has helped in maintaining investor confidence despite the prolonged Asia crisis. It has minimized capital flight and has brought new perspectives in terms of the investment and savings maturity in the country. Given the need for the country to compete in the global markets, mutual funds will certainly serve as a vital ingredient for current and future national development.

Mission Vision

Contribute to nation building through the effective mobilization of long-term savings by increasing the citizenry's awareness regarding investments.

Protect the interests of the investing public and make them more knowledgeable about their investment options and risk exposures.

Partner with government by assisting, coordinating and cooperating with relevant regulatory agencies, led by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Foster the growth of the Philippine Mutual Fund Industry through the institution of the standards of excellence in the operations of Philippine investment companies.

'The mutual fund industry is the fastest-growing segment in the financial service sector today. The mutual fund industry grew in 2001 from 7.5 billion in assets under management to over 83 billion in 2006, representing an annual compounded growth rate of 59% over the last five years'

For more inquiries call ICAP at (02) 845-1965 or visit us at

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GSIS Mutual Fund, Inc.	28.44%	49.89%	113.24%
Philam Strategic Growth Fund, Inc.	27.91%	47.78%	117.26%
Philam Fund Inc.	25.47%	42.92%	101.89%

*Net Asset Value Per Share performance for period: * January 1 - October 15, 2007 ** October 13, 2006 - October 15, 2007 *** October 15, 2004 - October 15, 2007*
Past performance is not indicative of future results. Investors are advised to read the prospectus.

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For more details and copies of the funds' prospectuses, call your licensed Philam Group agent or counselor.

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S ● TU SS ● WEDNESDAY 2BU ● THURS DAY FASHION & BEAUTY

ARCHIE Printed Rayon: sleeveless top in printed rayon fabric with ruched waistband paired with colored slim-fit denim

ASHTON Wrap Dress with topstitch embroidery

Plains, prints and festives

URBAN AND MODERN IS the look of Plains & Prints' new Holiday Collection.

The latest collection features symmetry and volume with clean silhouettes. The creative details of the collection are dramatic and sophisticated.

The new collection is festive but has a touch of whimsy. Every cut and fold has sharply defined lines. The garments become canvases to display unique qualities that are modern yet classic.

Plains & Prints showcases a seasonal tapestry of festive tones and hues in its Holiday Collection. Glowing yellows, grape and deep plums are tempered with flashy red, cobalt blue, pine green, grays, classic black and white provide color and dramatic contrasts.

The rich details of the new Plains & Prints Holiday Collection were unveiled recently at Plains & Prints' new store at the Ayala TriNoma Mall. The cocktail party drew some of the country's celebrities, fashion editors, writers and fashionistas.

Plains & Prints endorsers Gretchen Barretto and Celine Lopez sported the new collection to give guests a preview of the holiday line. The festive mood was most evident in the Little Red Dress line.

Stylish tops complemented shorts and denim pants in solid hues that women can mix and match to suit the occasion or mood.

Roxanne Farillas, owner of Plains & Prints, said the new collection gave women more classic yet trendy pieces for the holiday season. She said the Holiday Collection featured new designs, colors and fabrics.

Plains & Prints opened in 1994. This year, it launched the R.A.F. Collection (Rich and Famous), the fashion brand's high-end line that transforms classic denim fabrics into creatively crafted designs.

Plains & Prints' Holiday Collection is now available in all its 40 outlets nationwide as well as in its new store at 1/L, Ayala TriNoma Mall, North Edsa.

BAILEY Dress: Stylish button-down dress with leather belt

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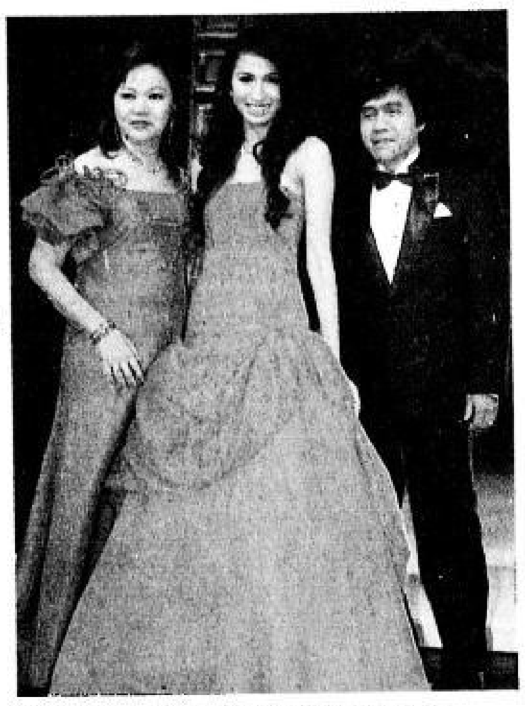
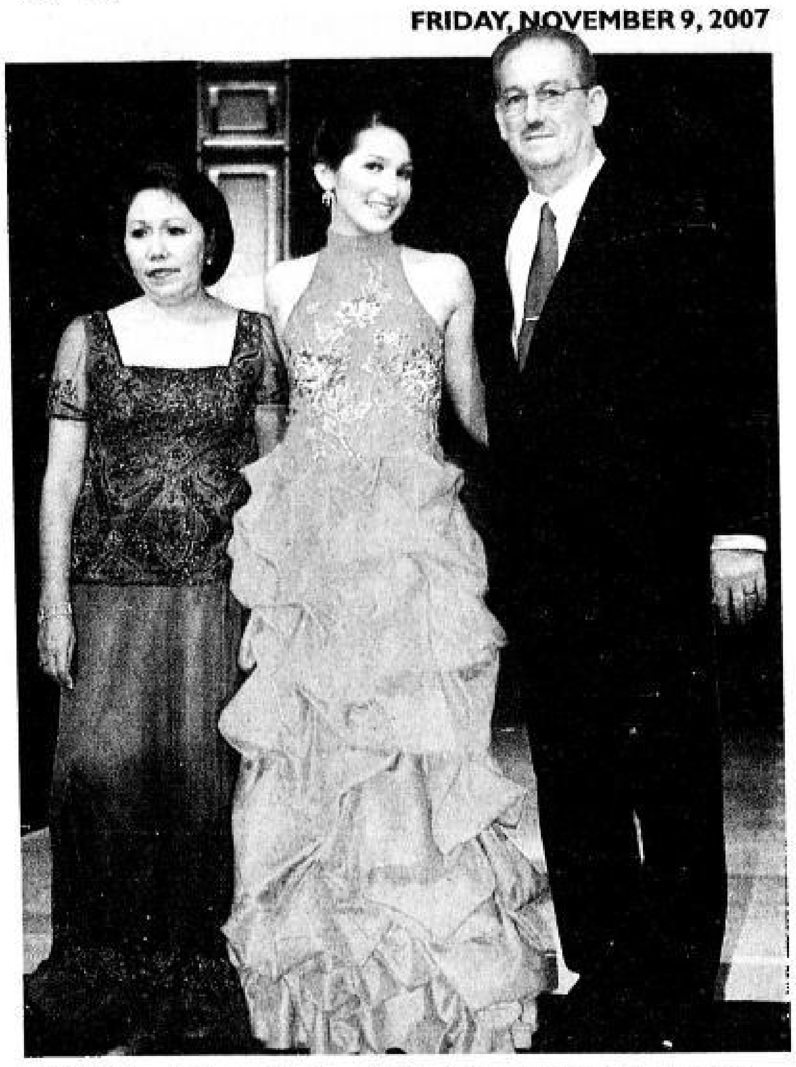

JEANNY and Jimmy Napoles with their daughter Jean Katherine Napoles

ELIZABETH and Jesus Fernando with their daughter Jean Fernando

JACQUI Dayrit B. and husband Marcelo Boncan with their daughter Marie Veronique Boncan


CARMEN and Edwin Afzelius with their daughter Cristina Afzelius

BECKY and José Aranaz with their daughter Carla Rosanna Aranaz

Star-studded ball honors Manila's loveliest

IN THE YEAR'S MOST ANTICIpated grand ball, five of Cosmo Manille's *tres* accomplished ladies were named "Manila's 5 Loveliest of 2008."

The star-studded dinner-ball was attended by over 300 top members of high society, dahlings, at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The glittering event capped the annual fundraising activity of Love 14 Foundation, a nonstock, nonprofit organization that helps the marginalized sector through scholarships and medical programs.

The five—**Carla Rosanna Aranaz, Cristina Afzelius, Marie Veronique Boncan, Jean Fernando** and **Jean Catherine Napoles**—proclaimed "Manila's Loveliest" in a colorful Morrocan-themed pageant directed by **Raymond Villanueva**. The ladies wore eye-catching gowns by **Judith Pajaro** and shoes by **Hillz Hobbo**.

Now on its 17th year, the search for Manila's fairest of the fair has produced a bumper crop of outstanding young women who, despite their charm and privileged lives, have committed themselves to helping provide for the needs of their less-fortunate brothers and sisters.

Among Love 14's beneficiaries have been the Children's Ward of the Ospital ng Makati, Burns Unit of the Philippine General Hospital, Bethlehem House of Bread, Our Lady of Remedios Parish Church and Gintong Pangarap Foundation, which provides care for poor terminally ill children.

Love 14 also funds the ongoing scholarship program headed by Fr. **Bienvenido Nebres** of the Ateneo de Manila University. The program is in cooperation with Bulgari, Technomarine and Synergia.

Two checks worth P100,000 each were turned over during the ball to 6-year-old **Camille Joyce Ramirez**, who will undergo open-heart surgery, and to Msgr. **Josefino Ramirez**, former parish priest of Quiapo, for his charities, *palanggas*.

The success of the event was due to the hard work and awesome dedication of the fantastic officers and board of trustees of Love 14, led by president **Jennifer Napoles** and chair **Nini Licaros**.

Other Love 14 officers are vice president **Therese Coronel-Santos**, treasurer **Becky Garcia**, secretary **Nini Valdez** and PR officer **Donnie Ramirez**.

Other members are **Joanne Matschuck, Gerry Contreras, Maurice Arcache** (as in *moi*), **Yolly Ayson, Bernice Palanca-Go, Virma Vergel de Dios, Anne de Dios, Celia Cuasay, Virginia Lane** and **Chacha Camacho**. Take your well-deserved bow, *palanggas*, for always being there for the needy.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

Fila opens new store

Moi couldn't believe the mob as I inched my way to get into Fila, the world-renowned purveyor of Italian luxe sportswear, which opened its latest boutique at the Glorietta 3, *palanggas*.

I was welcomed by no less than beautiful shop owner, **Cris Albert** herself, dahlings, an embodiment of Fila's spirited qualities of personal empowerment. I then noticed that all eyes were on the dazzling star of the boutique, Fila's hottest new label called Tiva.

Like a red-carpet affair, there were TV cameramen from the different networks as well as the paparazzi, with megalensman **Alex Van Hagen** heading the pack.

Fila's Tiva has an urban-inspired and sports-spirited look but reinterpreted for a fun, fashionable stance.

Another star of the affair was Everest, a collection of rugged sports gear for the serious athlete, *palanggas*.

Après nibbling on the endless trays of yummies from Bizu and downing the endless flow of the in-demand bubbly, Möet & Chandon Champagne, *naturellement moi* did my good-byes, and buzzed off to a pal's apartment, for a relaxed chilling out, *palanggas*.

Birthday bash at Plantation Bay

It's been eons since *moi* last visited in Cebu's one-of-a-kind Plantation Bay resort and spa, one of the premiere leisure destinations on Mactan island, *palanggas*.

Super-fun and hard-working **Carmen Fernandez Beaves**, one of the hotshot directors of Plantation Bay, celebrated her 50th birthday with a two-day bash at the fabulous resort. The first day was marked by a formal sit-down dinner and the next day, by a laid-back beach party.

The birthday bash started off with cocktails at the Piazza Palermo poolside. There was Latino music from Plantation Bay's very own serenaders.

Carmen's fun invitees included Plantation Bay directors **Joben Jalandoni, Nanette de Leon, Arthur Palou, Elizabeth Reyes** and **George Francisco**.

Guests were treated to a night of great music, as well as canapes and booze.

The young people had a separate party at the luxurious Quantum Villa.

Dinner followed at the elegant Palermo Restaurant with a special Italian menu superbly prepared by executive sous chef **Dario Roxas**.

A Brazilian-themed party capped off the two-day birthday bash at the Peninsula Beach, with more yummies on the sumptuous buffet plus more flowing drinks.

The guests partied to the music of the Renaissance Band, Cebu's premier retro band, *palanggas*.

The Caribbean village-inspired resort's more than 11 hectares of lush tropical foliage, water and white sand features a host of attractions.

It has 247 of the most appealing rooms of any resort in the world, including 24 chic suites, three signature restaurants, the biggest saltwater swimming lagoon replete with waterfalls and slides, and the world-class Mogambo Springs Spa that features the most luxurious massage therapies and wellness treatments, which I just had to experience, *palanggas*.

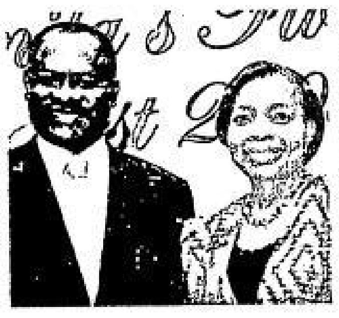
SID and wife Jeannie Goulbourn of Silk Cocoon, Mayor Benhur Abalos and wife Carmelita Aguilar A., and stylish Frances Lim

MANILA'S Five Loveliest 2007: Jill Bunquen, Chinna Juban, Ysa Villar, designer Judith Pajaro of Via Firenze, Charisse Abalos and Mila Zamora

SOME of the hard-working officers. Becky Garcia, architect Gerry Contreras, Philippine Tatler's Irene Martel Francisco and chair Nini Licaros

AMINA Aranaz Alunan

PITOY Moreno and Karen San Agustin


FEDERAL Republic of Nigeria Chief of Mission Ambassador Ndubuisi Amaku and wife Madame Stella Amaku

PINKY Marquez with Tess Andallaza, Nicole Santiago and Jojo Amboy

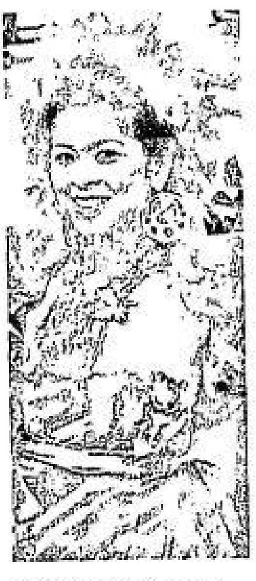
FILA devotees. Jason Anatalio, Lhuz Santos, Bhot Cocjin, Angie Sibul and Jevie Pagpaguitan

PLANTATION Bay GM Efren Belarmino, Joy Onozawa, Plantation Bay Resort and Spa director Carmen Fernandez B. with husband David Beaves, and Litoy Noel

THE PARTY PACK. Michael Openshaw, Eric Kampmann, Tim and Barbee Chuichian, and Marie Louise Jungels Kampmann

DAVID Beaves with son Nichols and wife Carmen with kids Henry and William B.

DEENA Garcia, Jason Lowengco and Fila's first lady Cris Albert


TV'S "CELEBRITY Duets" winner Tessa Prieto-Valdes

GERRY Katigbak and Wanda Louwallien

AT THE FILA boutique: Chloe Morandarte and Janet Carlos

GEORGE Francisco, Joben Jalandoni and Art Palou. Seated: Pilar Francisco, Carmen Beaves and Nanette de Leon

City chic

BLACK stretch plush flannel bomber jacket with tiger embroidery, black sequined sheer cotton jersey top and black cotton-and-wool twill pleated skirt

DKNY'S FALL 2007 collection is simply shaped, super-short and shimmering with light.

The base is as black and gray as the New York night sky, spiked with color-on-color explosion of pink, ultra-violet, acid and berry.

The new suits come as a longer, leaner jacket, a tweed oversized anorak or hand-knit sweater worn over a little shift.

Dresses have double-faced, metallic knits with a twist of silk or sequin shine. Patterns are graphic and not for the shy: the moving energy of digital skyscrapers, pink-on-gray hearts, falling flowers and bold embroidered tigers.

Accessories include knit berets, sequin stretch belts, glitter clutches and the iconic Mary Jane spectator platforms.

For menswear, meanwhile, the suit is soft-shouldered and lean, worn with a crisp shirt, skinny tie and the flash of a colored knit or scarf.

Black jeans and a rubber-coated nylon parka spell sporty chic.

DKNY is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc., with shops at Greenbelt 4, Power Plant Mall, Rustan's Makati and 158 Designers' Blvd.

BLACK starry nights stretch georgette top and black-and-ivory graphic tweed pleated pants

BLACK-AND-IVORY graphic tweed long jacket and crinkle-chiffon skyscraper-print mint ruffle skirt

Something for everyone

ROMANTIC ruffle-trim dress under a plaid tweed single-breasted trench jacket

TRENDY FASHION LABEL WAREHOUSE presents a collection inspired by five key looks: Officer, Futuristic, Sophisticated, Volume and Going Out. The overall look remains very urban and modern, with something for everyone this season.

Military influences are softened with classic feminine styles to create this strong trend. Midnight-blue tailoring with brass button detail on cropped jackets and waistcoats provide elements of a true officer.

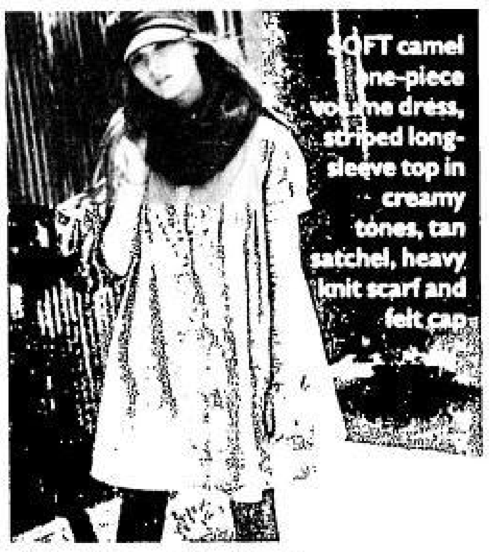
Classic black, white and gray combinations provide the foundation for the Futuristic trend, while strong modernist prints are key for impact dressing.

Inspired by '40s Hollywood glamour, the Sophisticated look is polished and ladylike with a '70s retro influence in a palette of teals, malachite green, burgundy, gray and black.

Voluminous shapes create simple one-piece dressing using light and creamy tones; soft camels, pale gold and brown with a hint of vibrant modernist green for a truly contemporary feel.

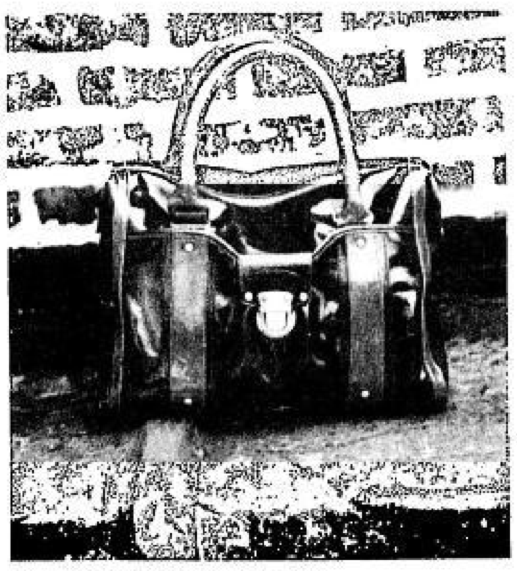
Modern Sci-Fi dresses up this season's Going Out look. Warrior like metallics with all-over studs and sequins create a stunning dramatic finish.

Robinsons Specialty Stores, Inc. is the exclusive franchisee of Warehouse, Wallis, Topshop, Topman and Dorothy Perkins.



SOFT camel one-piece volume dress, striped long-sleeve top in creamy tones, tan satchel, heavy knit scarf and felt cap

LAME sleeveless top with metallic details and slim pants



DEEP brown and red satchel

SILVER shoulder bag embellished with metallic studs

No-fuss style

SCARLET snakeskin frame clutch, pewter snakeskin medium satchel and grass snakeskin hinge frame clutch

KENNETH COLE REACTION'S FALL/Winter 2007 collection is all about no-fuss, clean-shape and detailed ensembles that are almost architectural.

Combining form and function, the new collection appeals to chic professionals with raw energy and living the metropolitan lifestyle. The silhouettes don't move far from the classic Kenneth Cole Reaction style but the shapes fit better, evident in the slight stretch and straightforwardness of the details.

Must-haves include vintage and shrunken blazers with crinkled finishes, short mod dresses, suede rouched ankle boots, and metallic pumps and sling-backs for women.

Bearing testament to the brand's trademark of black and earth tone shades, the focus this season is two main color palettes—neutral shades and blackened colors like green black, blue black and brown.

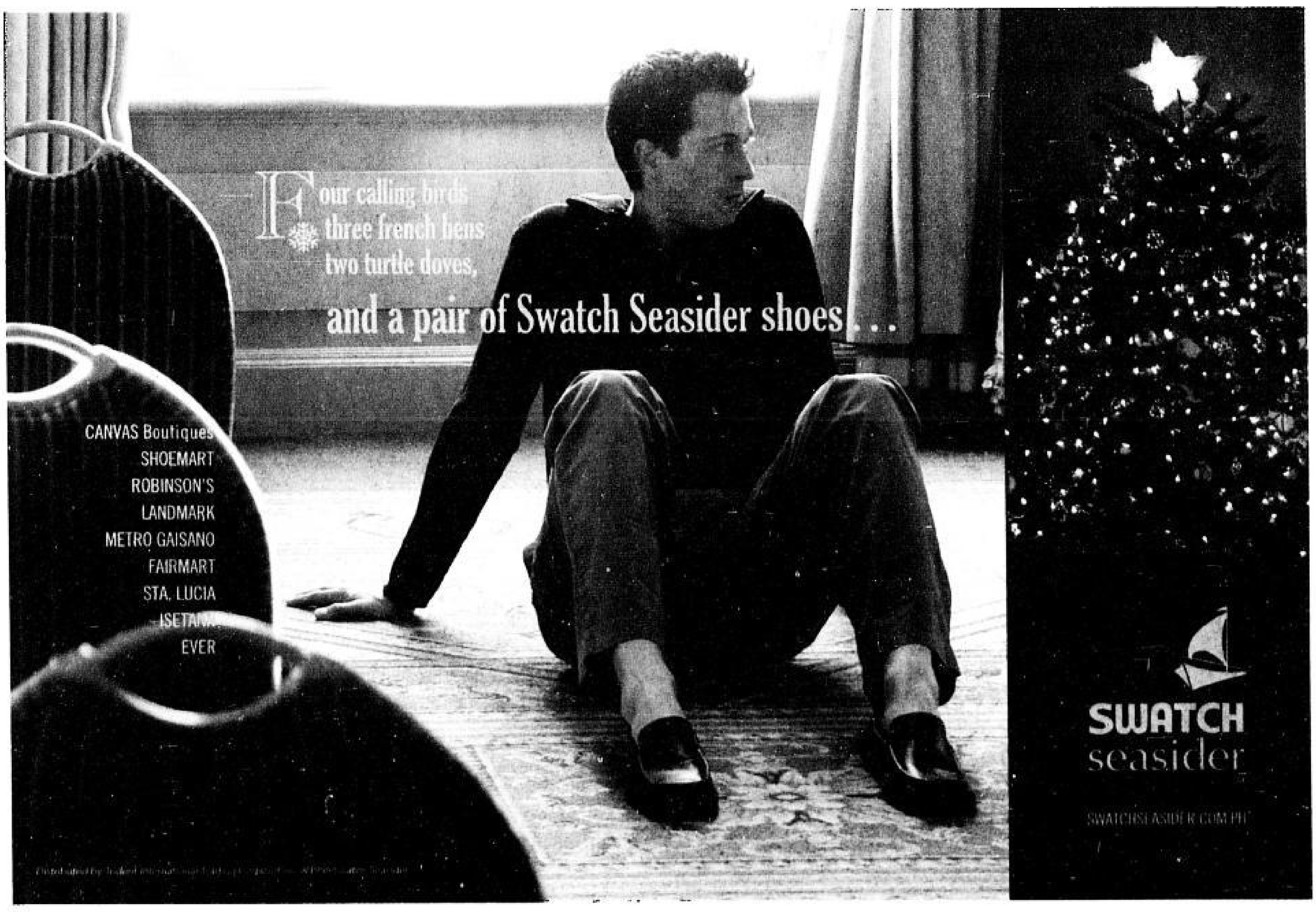
Inspired by paintings of Elizabeth Peyton, a young and romantic painter, the colors are used in tonal gradations that give the fabric a glazed effect so that the colors look like they are running into each other.

For those who want to jazz up their outfits and complete their look, the Kenneth Cole Reaction Fall/Winter accessory collection has gone '80s this season. Consistent with the simple theme of their apparel, the accessories take from the minimalist '80s.

In the Philippines, Kenneth Cole Reaction is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. and located in Alabang Town Center, Greenbelt 3, Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza, SM Mall of Asia, Bonifacio High Street and TriNoMa.

MIRROR patent leather pumps

SOFT dusty metallic slingback flats



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BDO

Wealth Management

"Money was never a big motivation for me, except as a way to keep score. The real excitement is playing the game."

Donald Trump. Sr.
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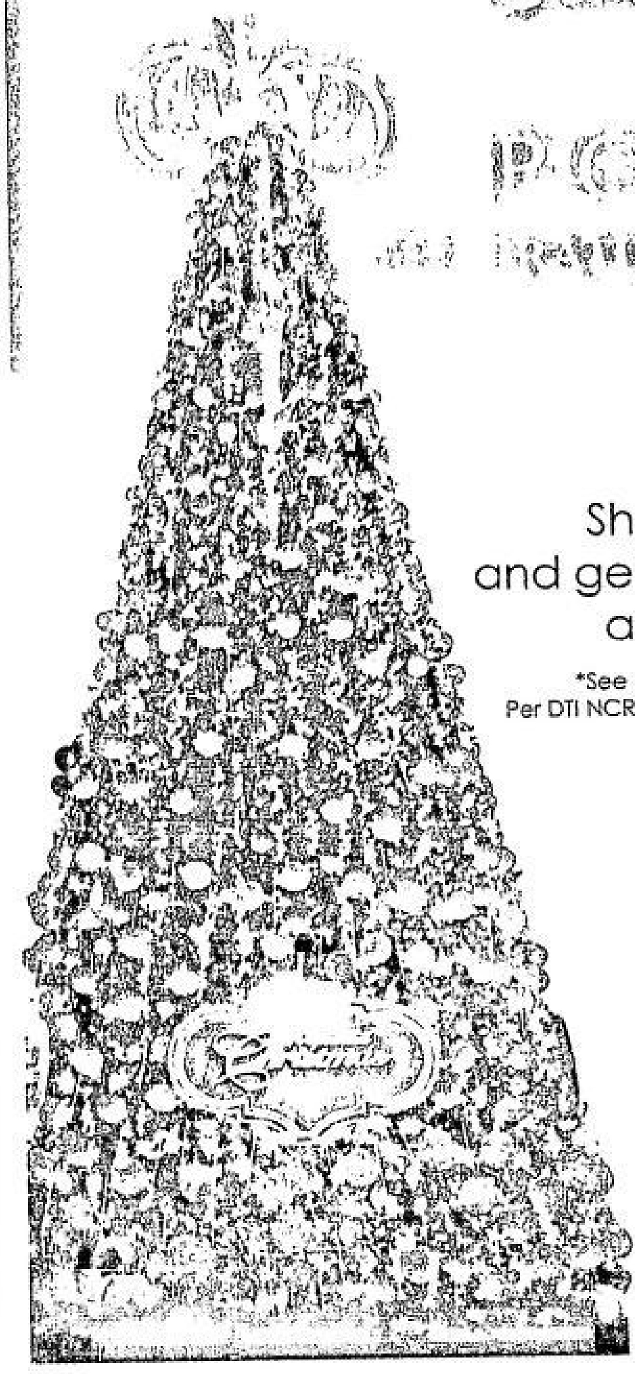

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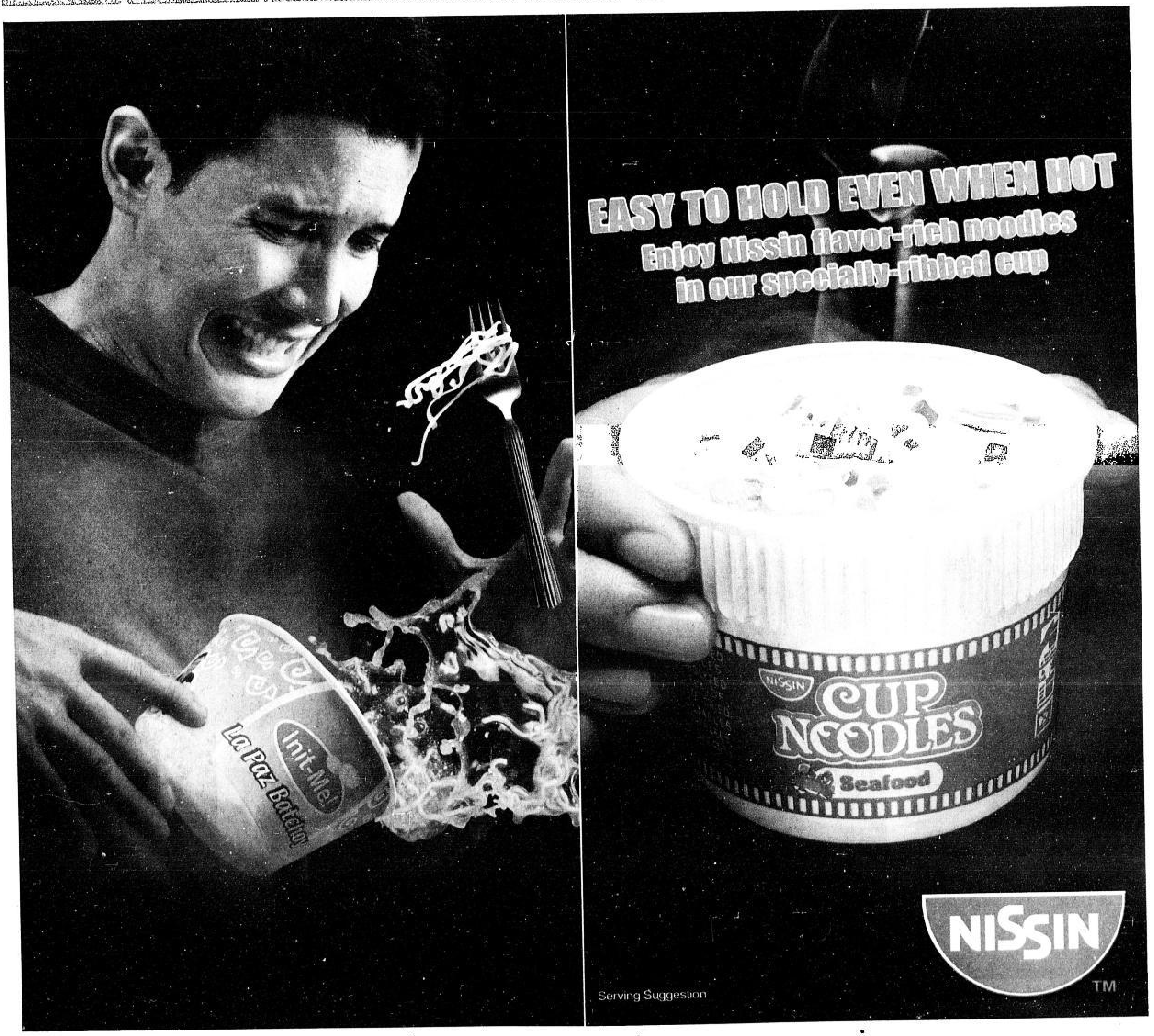
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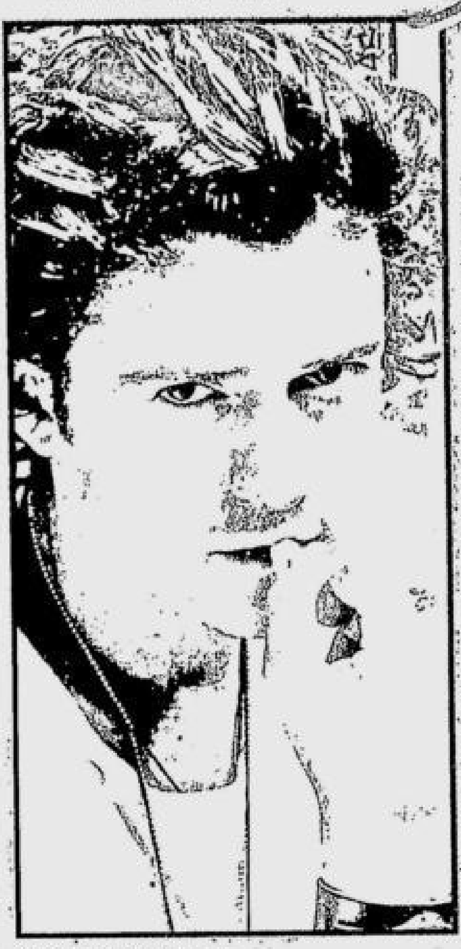

ORLANDO Bloom

Beauty booty for men

If the men in your life don't have a skincare regimen, introduce them to Kiehl's

Ria Francisco-Prieto

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BEAUTY/D2

JOHN Mayer

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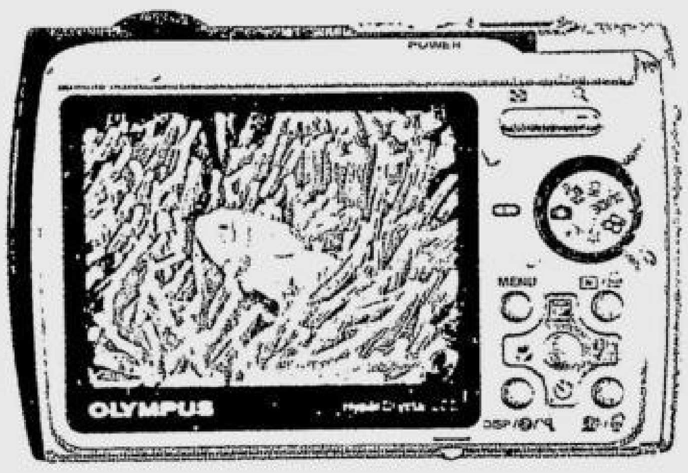

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BEAUTY

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men

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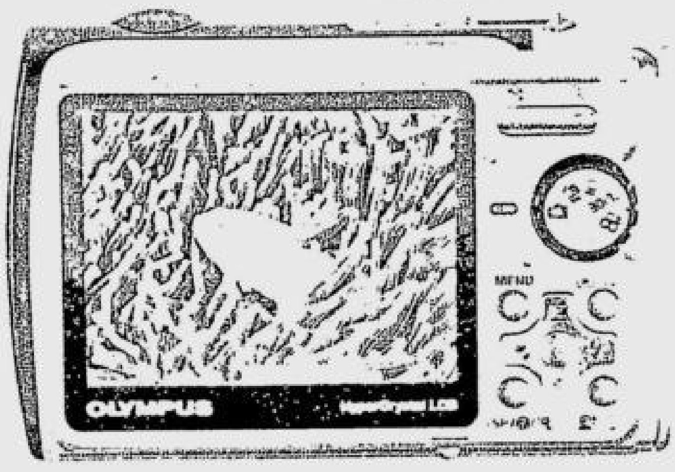

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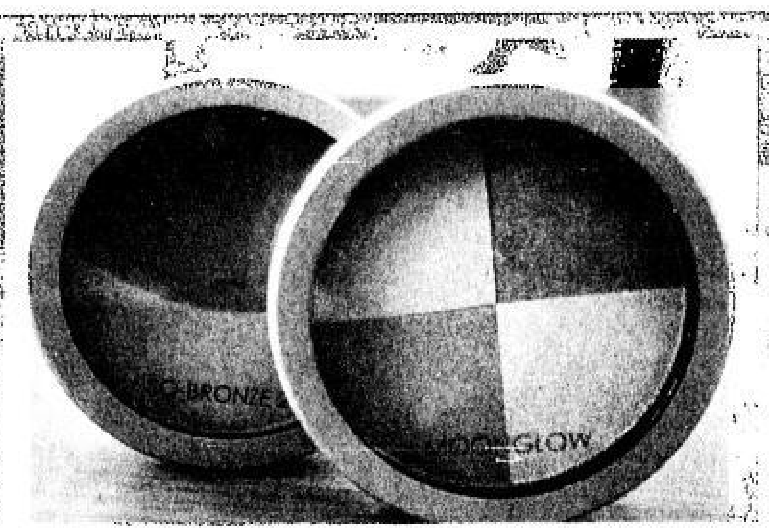
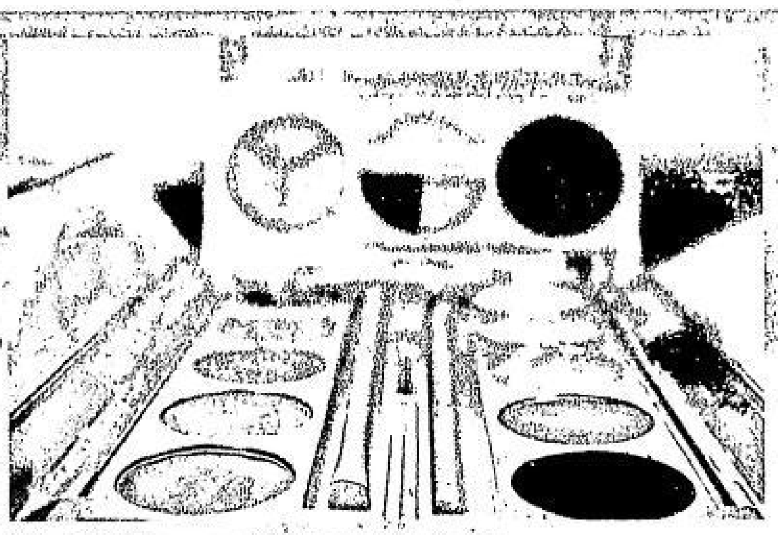


MULTIPURPOSE shimmery powders



ALL-IN-ONE compacts for women on the go

BRUSHES made of natural hair

Mineral madness

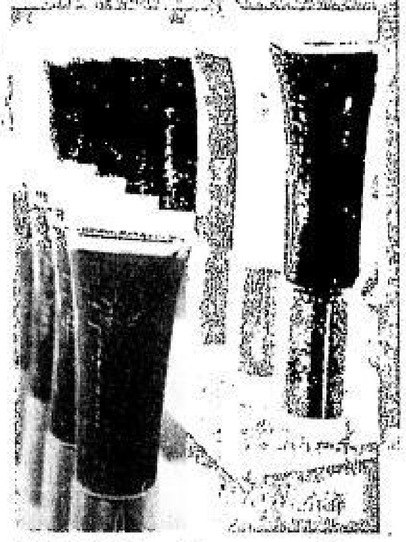
Pioneering makeup brand Jane Iredale is now available in the Philippines

Text and photos
by Bianca Consunji
Contributor

WHEN MINERAL makeup first entered the cosmetic industry a few years ago, consumers were immediately drawn to its premise: here was makeup that provided good coverage, stayed on for hours, and most importantly, did not ruin the skin.

SUGAR Sugar magazine's Kai Magsanoc gets a makeover.

NATURAL-LOOKING bronzers for men



LIPGLOSS in all hues

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Makeup of this sort is also usually found in loose powder form, so it has lower oil content compared to pressed powders, thus decreasing its pore-clogging qualities. Mineral powders tend to be denser, so women will require less layers of gunk on their skin.

Jane Iredale, one of the pioneering brands of mineral makeup, is now available in the Philippines. Created in May 1994, Jane Iredale immediately gained popularity among plastic surgeons and dermatologists, who recommended the brand to patients who needed to conceal their red and inflamed skin after peels, facials and microdermabrasion treatments.

Jane Iredale's line of mineral makeup includes several types of foundation, concealer, primers and color products. Its star product, the Liquid Minerals foundation, is composed of beads of powder suspended in aloe vera. For those who prefer less coverage, a dusting of Amazing Base, a loose powder foundation, will do.

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Even men aren't left out of the picture, as the brand also sells a line of bronzer for men (good for those who work in the modeling or television industry). For those who are looking for tools, you'll like Jane Iredale's wide range of brushes and other makeup tools (check out the Magic Mitt, a makeup removing-glove that only needs to be wet with water before you swipe it on your face).

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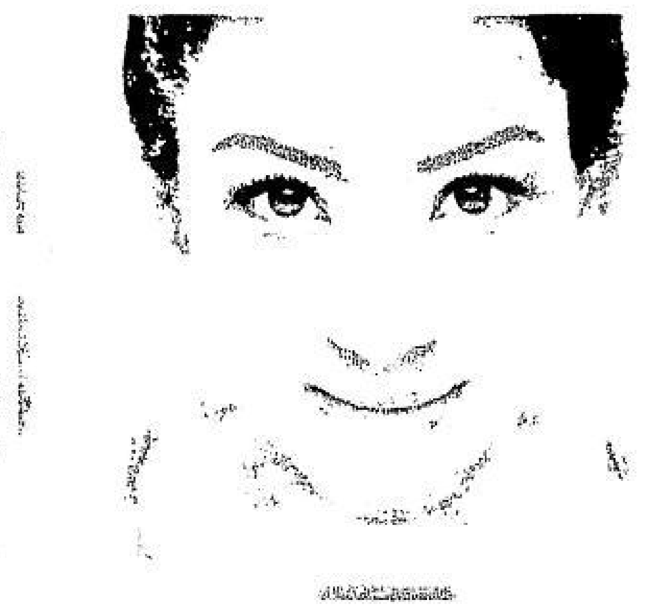


Fall in love at Fête d'Amour

THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE COUNTRY, FÊTE D'AMOUR WILL gather Manila's most eligible bachelors and bachelorettes in one elegant setting at the Peninsula Manila's Rigodon Ballroom on Nov. 13.

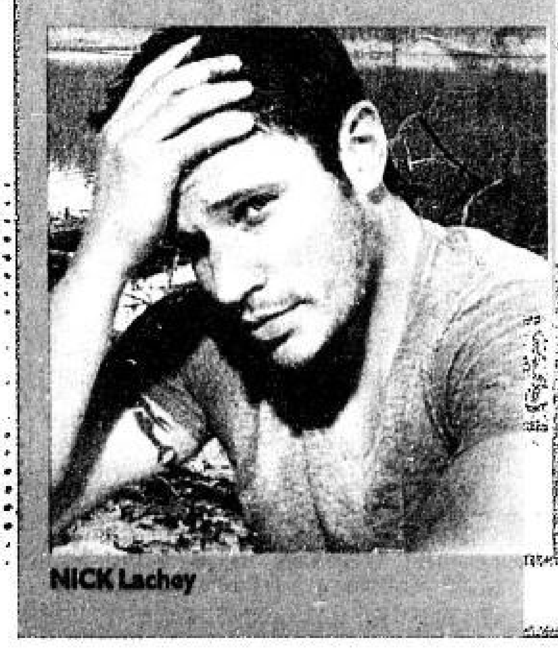
This special by-invitation-only assembly of singles by Pond's is the beauty brand's way of setting the stage for romance.

At Fête d'Amour, single guests are free to give compliments, send gifts to anyone who caught their eye, or perhaps share a drink or two.

"At Pond's, we know that beauty is, in fact, the starting point of romance," says Mutya Laxa, Unilever's Marketing Manager for Skin. "If you look at the inner workings of a man's mind, attraction starts with the physical, then moves to the intellectual then the emotional attraction. We understand the pivotal role that beauty plays in finding true romance. And we've made it our mission at Pond's to give the beauty that brings romance to a woman's life."

For more than 150 years, Pond's has cared for women's skin around the world. And now Pond's breaks ground with Pond's Flawless WhiteTM Visibly Lightening Day Cream, specially formulated for Asian skin that visibly lightens and reduces dark spots and blemishes in just seven days.

LENNY Kravitz



NICK Lachey

Beauty booty for men

From page D1

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If the men in your life don't have a skincare regimen, introduce them to Kiehl's.

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The bonus I see in this is, when I tell my husband about the beauty products I buy, he is more interested, open, and yes, ready to shell out for it. It's a win-win situation really.

Since 1851, Kiehl's has been offering unisex products like bath and shower cleansers, lotions, shampoos, conditioners. The men's line includes the following:

Eye Alert Energy Booster. Great product to use when your man has had a long night but with an early meeting the next day. The booster has cooling cucumber and alfalfa extracts that fight fatigue and combat dark circles and puffiness.

Facial Fuel Energizing Facial Wash. Created for the man on the go, it has vitamins C and E as well as chestnut and soy extracts. It rejuvenates and revitalizes one's appearance, and is ideal for overworked or sleep-deprived guys. My husband says it leaves his skin with a rejuvenating tingling sensation and the feeling that it tightens his pores.

Facial Fuel Energizing Scrub. Since men's skin is known to be 16-percent thicker than women's, this scrub will slough away dead skin, and is ideal as a pre-shave treatment. The cooling exfoliator is made of a highly effective blend of scrub particles derived from fresh apricot kernels and polyethylene beads. Customers can try this product at the Kiehl's store, which has a basin for product testing.

Close Shavers. This cream will allow him to get the closest shave possible, and is ideal for all skin types. For ultra-sensitive skin, the Blue Eagle formulation works best.

If you can drag your man to Kiehl's, be ready to have to wait for him to finish shopping. It's also great that the store's sales team is very knowledgeable about the products, so no customer will go home with a product he or she will eventually regret having bought.

What I love most about Kiehl's is that most of its products are unisex. That means I make my husband buy what he wants and I just use his stuff. Great role reversal for a change!

Celebrities who love their Kiehl's

Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes: Stylist Series Crème with Silk Groom
Jake Gyllenhaal: Eye Alert
Orlando Bloom: Eye Alert
Ed Harris: Ultra Facial Moisturizer with SPF15
Nick Lachey: White Eagle Shave Cream
Lenny Kravitz: Musk Liquid Body Cleanser
John Mayer: Lip Balm #1

OLAY
OLAY
OLAY

Organize your beauty essentials

AVOID THE STRESS CAUSED by forgetting some personal care essentials when you leave home.

Pack everything you need in a toiletry kit before heading to the gym or going on a trip. Whether you have a gym bag, overnighter, or check-in luggage, toiletry kits have become the savvy traveller's organizing tool.

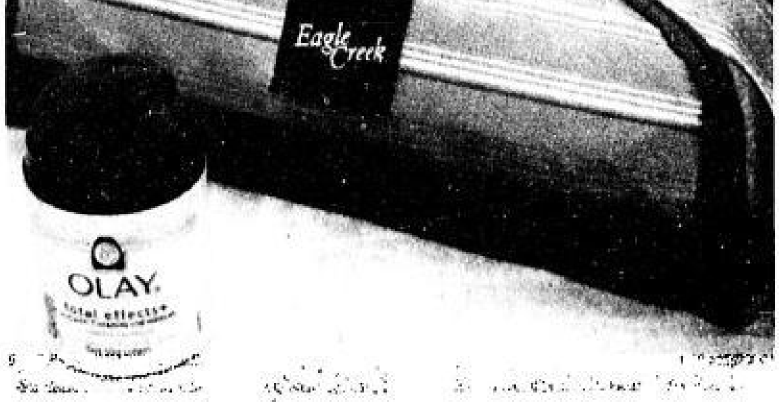
By putting together in one bag all the beauty and personal care products you cannot leave home without, you have one less thing to worry about.

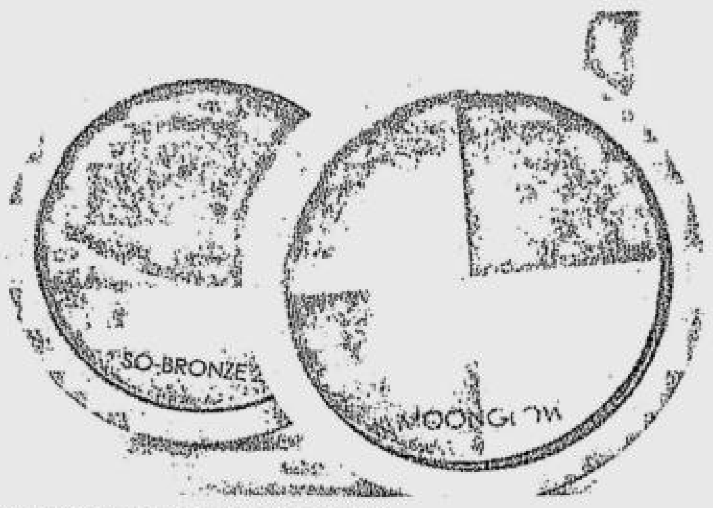
You can bring smaller amounts of your favorite products in leak-resistant containers like Nalgene travel bottles. To reduce the number of items you have to bring, look for products that can give you multiple benefits like Olay Total Effects, a breakthrough anti-aging moisturizer that helps fight the seven signs of skin-aging.

Hanging toiletry kits are a great way to get organized. Look for one that has a waterproof, lined main compartment, and an assortment of smaller pockets to keep everything organized like the Eagle Creek kits.

Choose the size that is right for your needs and will occupy minimal space in your bag or luggage.

Check out The Travel Club stores at leading malls nationwide for all your travel accessory needs.





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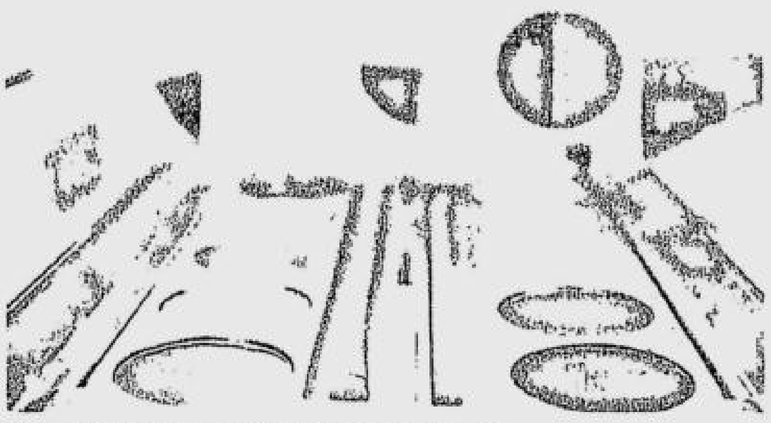
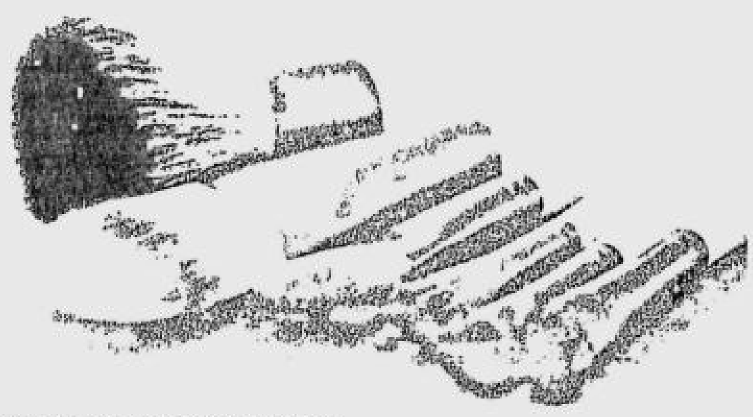


ALL-IN-ONE compacts for women on the go



BRUSHES made of natural hair

madness

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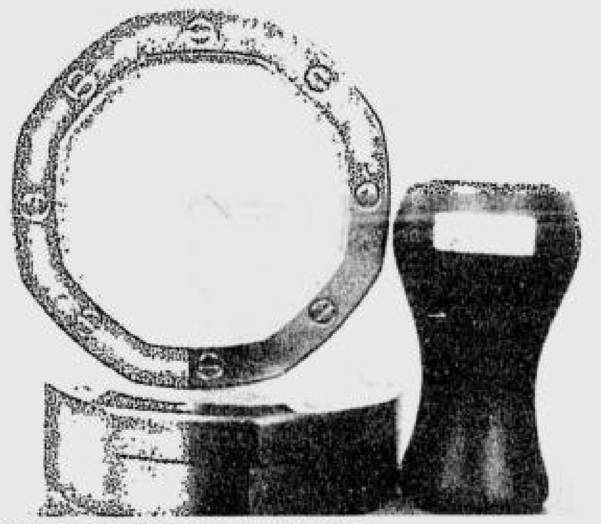

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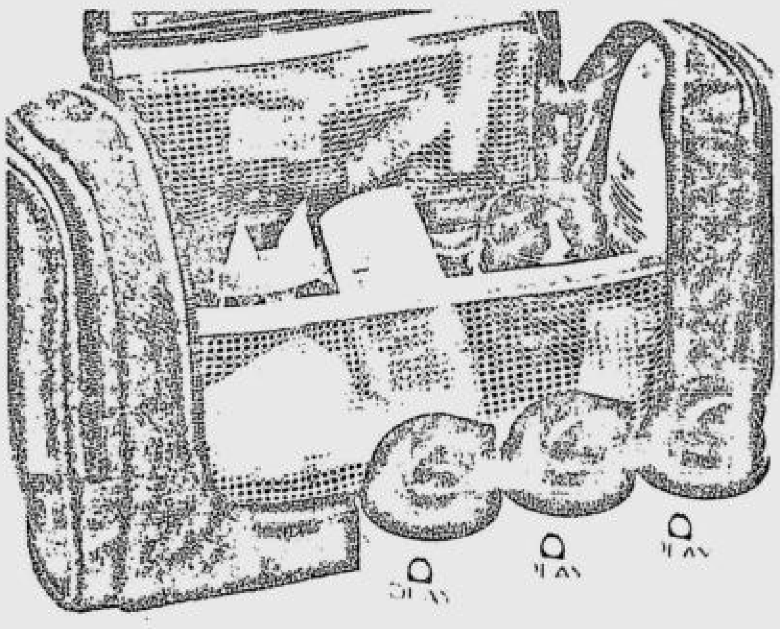
Fall in love at Fête d'Amour

THE [illegible]

with the physical, then moves to the intel[illegible] attraction. We understand the pivotal [illegible] ing true romance. And [illegible] made it our [illegible] the beauty that brings [illegible] to a woman [illegible]

For more than 150 [illegible] Pond's has [illegible] around the world. An [illegible] Pond's br[illegible] Flawless White TM [illegible] lated fo[illegible] blemishes [illegible]



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Eye Alert Energy Booster. Great product to use when your man has had a long night but with an early meeting the next day. The booster has cooling cucumber and alfalfa extracts that fight fatigue and combat dark circles and puffiness.

Facial Fuel Energizing Facial Wash. Created for the man on the go, it has vitamins C and E as well as chestnut and soy extracts. It rejuvenates and revitalizes one's appearance, and is ideal for overworked or sleep-deprived guys. My husband says it leaves his skin with a rejuvenating tingling sensation and the feeling that it tightens his pores.

Facial Fuel Energizing Scrub. Since men's skin is known to be 16-percent thicker than women's, this scrub will slough away dead skin, and is ideal as a pre-shave treatment. The cooling exfoliator is made of a highly effective blend of scrub particles derived from fresh apricot kernels and polyethylene beads. Customers can try this product at the Kiehl's store, which has a basin for product testing.

Close Shavers. This cream will allow him to get the closest shave possible, and is ideal for all skin types. For ultra-sensitive skin, the Blue Eagle formulation works best.

If you can drag your man to Kiehl's, be ready to have to wait for him to finish shopping. It's also great that the store's sales team is very knowledgeable about the products, so no customer will go home with a product he or she will eventually regret having bought.

What I love most about Kiehl's is that most of its products are unisex. That means I make my husband buy what he wants and I just use his stuff. Great role reversal for a change!

Celebrities who love their Kiehl's

Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes: Stylist Series Crème with Silk Groom
Jake Gyllenhaal: Eye Alert
Orlando Bloom: Eye Alert
Ed Harris: Ultra Facial Moisturizer with SPF15
Nick Lachey: White Eagle Shave Cream
Lenny Kravitz: Musk Liquid Body Cleanser
John Mayer: Lip Balm #1

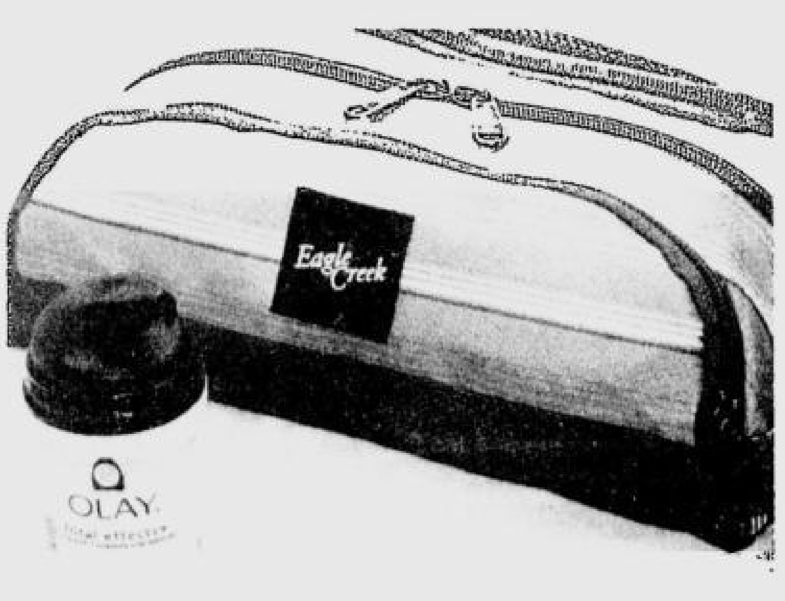
Organize your beauty essentials

[illegible] products that can [illegible] triple benefits like [illegible] Effect[illegible] break[illegible] aging moisturizer [illegible] seven signs of [illegible]

[illegible] its are a[illegible] organized. [illegible] has a water [illegible] compartment. [illegible] smaller [illegible] everything or[illegible] Eagle Creek [illegible]

[illegible] that is right [illegible] will occupy [illegible] bag or [illegible]

[illegible] Club [illegible] malls nation[illegible] travel access[illegible]



RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

FRUITS & Passion rich hand soap

Scent of the holiday

FRUITS & PASSION PAYS TRIBUTE to the splendor, fantasy and joy of the holiday season. Discover the enchanting world of Fruits & Passion with its scintillating gift sets, exclusive presents, and invigorating fragrances.

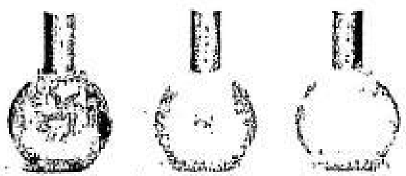
With new revamped packaging, the Holiday Ambiance collection of Fruits & Passion consists of three fragrances: classic Orange-Cinnamon and Giu-Mistletoe fragrances, and the new and festive Amaryllis.

The fragrances are available in five decorative ambiance products: room spray, hand-care duo, rich hand soap, perfumed oil and lantern.

Amaryllis, a festive fragrance with a delightful floral bouquet and hints of fresh fruit and spices, includes the Amaryllis Rich Hand Soap (250 ml P475). It contains glycerine, plant-based moisturizer that purifies without irritation and leaves hands delicately soft (a portion of the proceeds from the sale of this product will go to Habitat for Humanity Canada).

Other holiday fragrances are Orange & Cinnamon, light vanilla-scented notes and sweet orange essence to perfume your room; and Gui/Mistletoe, a festive fragrance imbued with a fresh citrus breeze and a warm touch from the forest with hints of cedar and sandalwood.

Products available in the three holiday fragrances are lantern (P1,150); hand-care duo (P1,450); perfumed oil (P825); and home fragrance (P995).



November health fair

WATSONS YOUR PERSONAL STORE offers discounts, product sampling, and free checkups and consultations at its pharmacy during its Health Fair this November.

Customers are invited to explore health and wellness solutions through the different activities at various Watsons stores in Metro Manila.

In SM Manila, the health fair is ongoing until Nov. 13. Watsons SM Megamall will have the fair Nov. 15-21; Watsons SM Fairview, Nov. 22-28; Watsons SM Mall of Asia, Nov. 29-Dec. 5; and Watsons SM North Edsa, Dec. 6-12.

At SM MOA, visitors may avail of free body-fat analysis, blood-pressure readings, lessons in muscle-pain management and free consultations throughout the month.

Watsons MOA will also be holding a special Geriatrics Day consultation on Nov. 13 and Pediatrics Day consultation on Nov. 16. Free consultations with a visiting dermatologist will be available Nov. 22.

Several pharmaceutical, health and wellness brands are offering product sampling and special discounts.

Trainers from Fitness First will lead the group exercise activity every Friday-Sunday at Watsons MOA; Nov. 16-18, Watsons SM Megamall; and Dec. 1-2 at Watsons SM North Edsa. At the end of each session, Watsons will give away goodie bags to participants.

Watsons Your Personal Store offers both generic and branded health care products during its Health Fair 2007 this November.

WATSONS offers both generic and branded health care products during its Health Fair this month.

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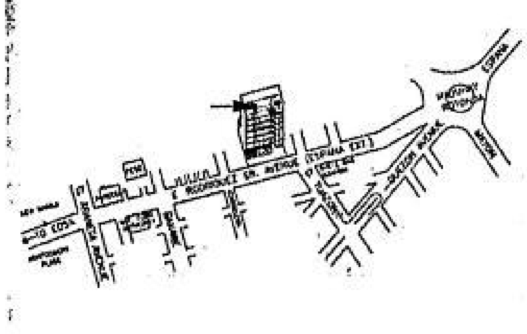

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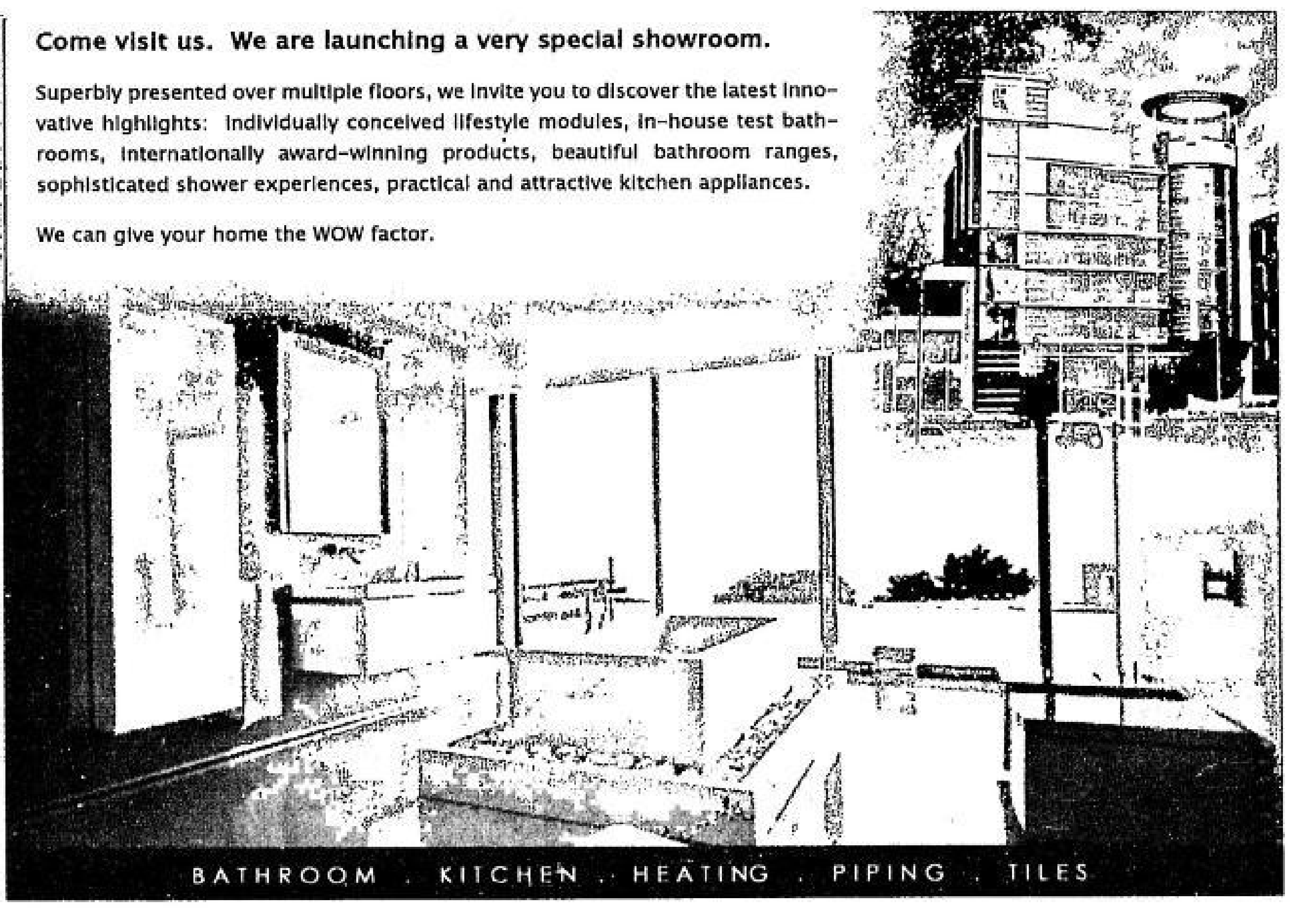

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There is a rockstar in you. Look it, and live it. Be the next Ray-Ban endorser and live the life of a real one. Just send us a photo featuring the Rockstar in you wearing an authentic Ray-Ban eyewear from October 22, 2007 - January 22, 2008. Five winning entries will be used for various Ray-Ban advertising materials for 2008. Plus, each winner will take home Rockstar prizes like Motorola RAZR V8, P 20,000.00 worth of grooming and cosmetic kit from Shu Uemura, Canon Digital IXUS 900 Ti, and a limited edition ***24-karat gold plated Ray-Ban Aviator.***

Huge beauty bargains

THERMASHAPE treatment

MAKEOVER 911
Kinny Salas

THIS PROMO WAS DISCOVERED when Godiva Skincare president Fred Reyes offered me face and body firming treatments from their newest machine as he had always known over the years that sagging facial skin and body cellulite were my biggest fears and concerns.

At the Godiva Skin station in Bel-air Makati, they led me and my brother into different private treatment rooms, made us change into white wraps and lie down while listening to relaxing instrumental music.

My brother had a Gentleman's Executive Facial (P600/90 minutes), which included deep cleansing, extractions when necessary and a soothing massage, followed by Diamond Peel for the face and neck. He was not crazy about the facial due to the painful extractions but he loved the Diamond Peel.

Godiva Skincare offers generously discounted services such as Diamond Peel, ThermaFirme, and ThermaShape

THERMAFIRME treatment

The best surprise was that for the promo price of P770 per area, the face and neck are counted as one. Even better: From Nov. 8-21, the Diamond peel will only cost P575 per area from the original P2,000.

Best painless promo offers

(Warning: Not for pregnant women or those with metals like pacemakers in their bodies.)

- ThermaFirme for the face and neck, which lasts about 30 minutes and best if repeated once a week for 10 sessions. A machine called Magic Waves uses Radio Frequency (RF) waves to stimulate and increase existing collagen production on the dermal layer of the skin, making it firmer.

The cream applied right before treatment is rich in antioxidants and firming ingredients that become easily absorbed at a deeper level due to the RF that opens the pores and delivers the benefits deeper.

After one session, I immediately noticed my face looked smaller and firmer, especially in the double-chin area, just as my aesthetician Gie promised. The cheekbone area was plumper but lower cheeks and jaw narrowed out. There was continued improvement the next morning when my eye bags became at least 50 percent smaller, making me look less puffy and tired.

Discomfort level: The firming cream is cold when applied to the skin and the ThermaFirme disk ranges from warm to hot, but very tolerable. If you feel it burning, tell the attendants so they can lift it off, then continue at a lower temperature gradually building up.

Original price of treatment is P5,000 per session, but the introductory price is P3,000 per session. If you avail of the 10-session package, it will only cost P25,000.

Godiva Firming Cream for face and neck can be bought at any Godiva Skin Station or department store for P275.

- ThermaShape—the same machine with a different attachment is used to cover larger areas at a limited time. One session is 45 minutes per area for a recommended 10 sessions spaced at least once every four weeks.

I have been going for one or two sessions a week with Gie for thighs, buttocks and stomach. The first two are my worst problem areas. I have seen major improvements: My stomach looks flatter and tighter after three sessions. The cellulite on my left thigh is a lot less and smaller by an inch in diameter after three sessions. The right thigh is more stubborn in that I only lost half an inch and the cellulite still looks horrid. I would take the left buttock and thigh to the beach but leave the right at home!

Original price: P10,000. Promo price: P5,000, and a package of 10 sessions costs only P35,000. That is a P65,000 savings from the original price!

More promos

Other promos for Nov 8-21: 1) Spider Veins Removal (by Schlerotherapy, per session), P1,575; 2) Underarm Hair Removal by Laser IPL, P7,575/4 sessions.

Godiva Skin Station branches: Greenhills, Binondo, Alabang (8428484), Makati Bel-Air (7516140), and SM Fairview (9391105).

I discovered a reasonable spot-whitening wax treatment for knees, elbows and toes at the Tagaytay Highlands Sports Club Salon. Elbows and toes cost P280/area and knees, P400/area. One session will instantly remove dark areas or at least improve it by 75 percent. The secret: whitening ingredient mixed with the wax. For now the services do not yet include underarms and bikini area for the whitening wax due to the fact that these areas are more sensitive.

Catch: for members only or those accompanied by them and salon is open from Wednesday-Sunday only.

The only other place that offers the same service is Belo clinic at Rustan's and Medical Plaza. There, they include wax with whitening for underarms, bikini area as well as knees, legs and elbows, with medical supervision.

Call the Belo hotline 8442939 for price inquiries.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY IN

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

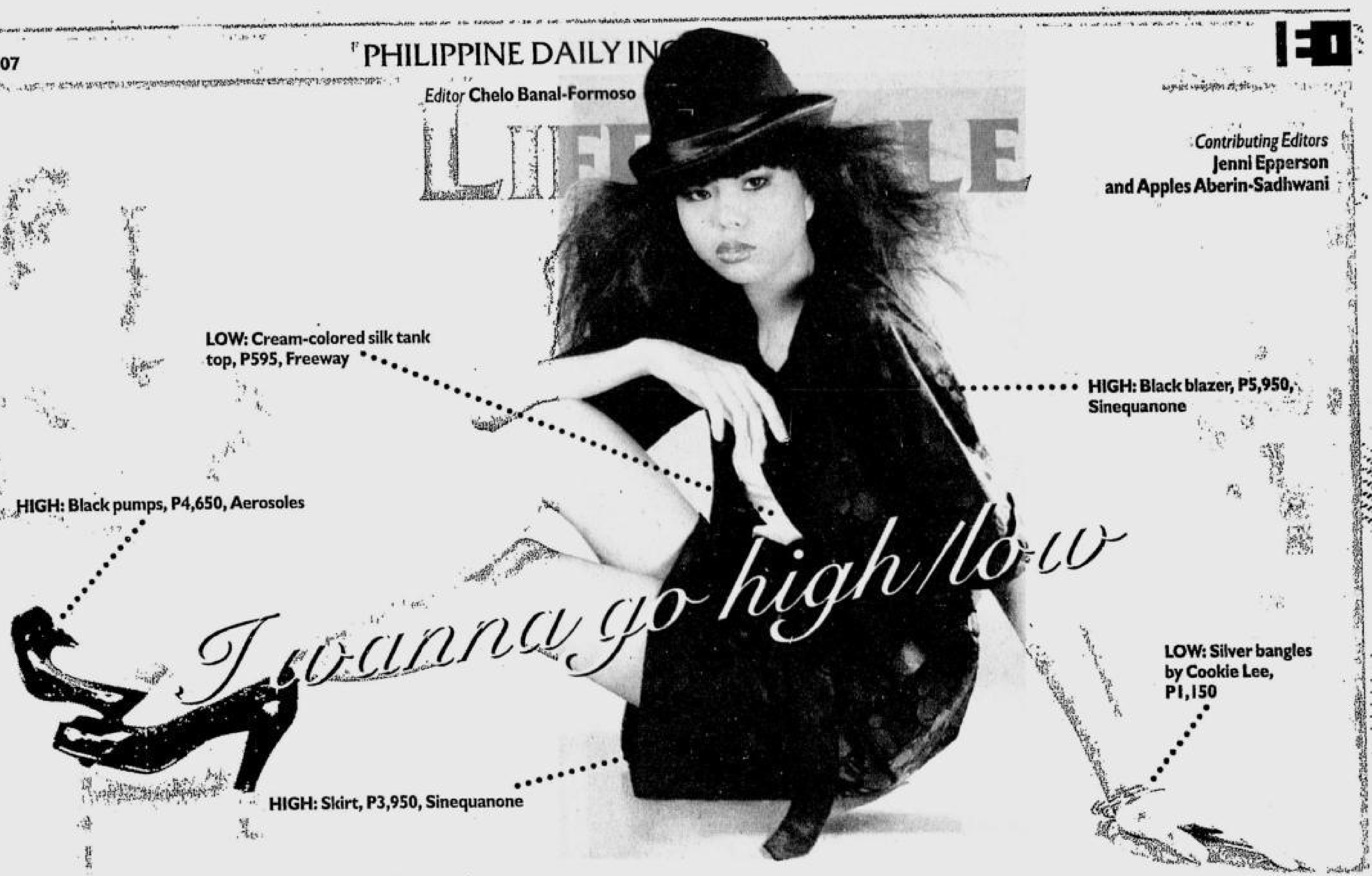
LIF LE

Contributing Editors
Jenni Epperson
and Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

FASHION

Wyn Wyn

I wanna go high/low


LOW: Cream-colored silk tank top, P595, Freeway
HIGH: Black blazer, P5,950, Sinequanone
HIGH: Black pumps, P4,650, Aerosoles
LOW: Silver bangles by Cookie Lee, P1,150
HIGH: Skirt, P3,950, Sinequanone

WHAT'S INSIDE

Inquirer Exclusive

Interview with the president, managing director and owner of Furla / F2

Mix and match the high/low way / E2

Kate Moss slides down the style bible's best dressed list / E3

Wyn Wyn Ong's

bejeweled beauties / E4

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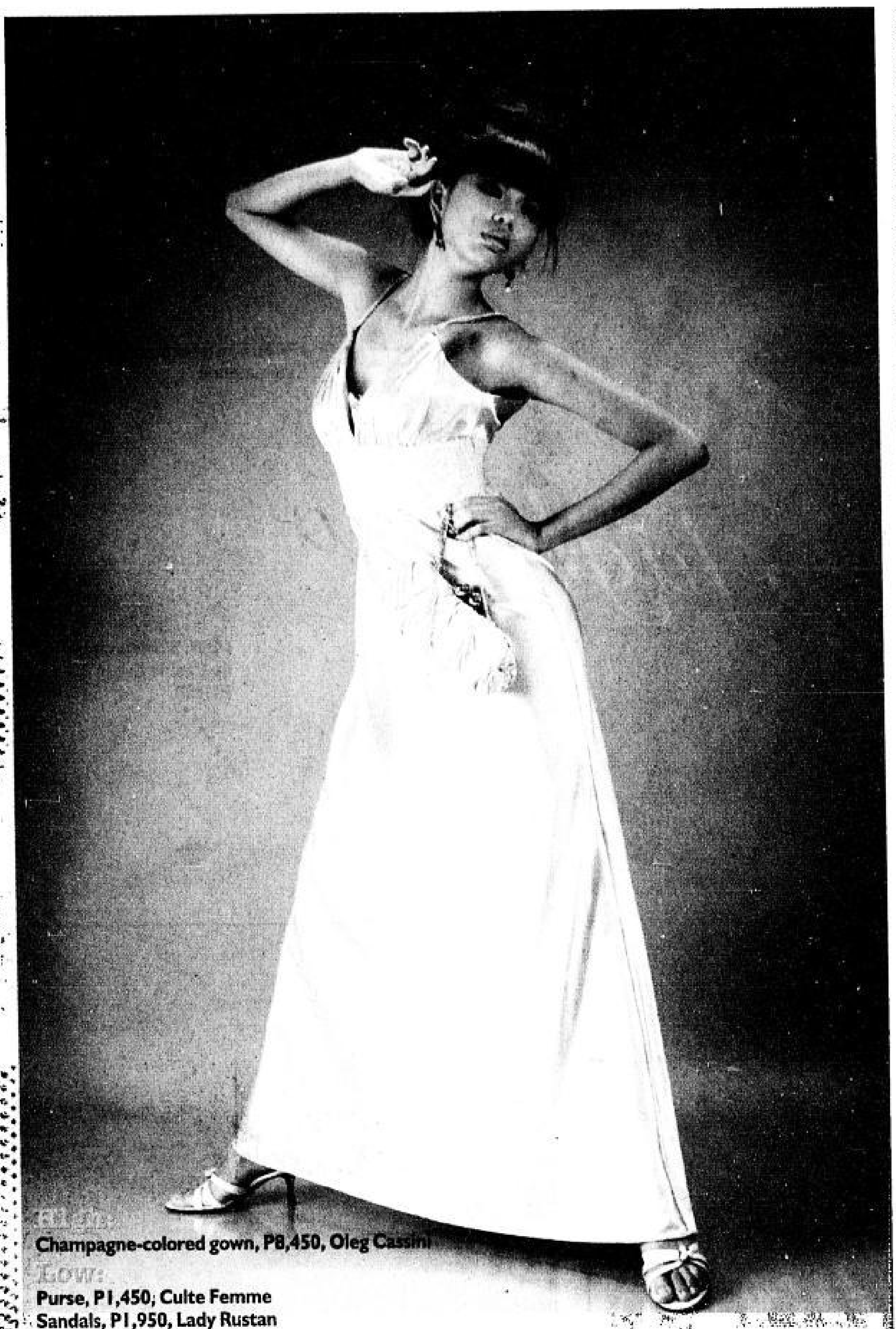
THE POWER PLANT (ROCKWELL CENTER) · GATEWAY MALL, ARANETA CENTER · SM MALL OF ASIA



High:
Champagne-colored gown, P8,450, Oleg Cassini

Low:
Purse, P1,450; Culte Femme
Sandals, P1,950, Lady Rustan
Earrings, P595, by Cookie Lee

High:
Silver necklace, P42,500; and silver cuff with diamonds, P57,000, Pianegonda

Low:
Black dress, P1295, Ensembles
Shoes, P895, Cassandra

The downlow on high/low

Photography Cyrus Panganiban
Styling Bianca Consunji
Makeup Tatin Yang of Lancôme
Model Ann Casas of Mercator Model Management
Special thanks to Anna Go

Nowadays, it's no longer a fashion crime to mix that top from Topshop or H&M with a Chanel clutch and Gucci sunglasses

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

THOUGH HIGH/LOW CAN best describe the mood swings of some of the city's nocturnal set, this is actually the fashion creed of the day. And it looks like it's going to stay.

Angelina Jolie, the undisputed queen of Hollywood (and Third World orphanages) today, provided High/Low enlightenment with her red-carpet ensemble during the premiere of "A Mighty Heart" last June.

Vintage dress from LA store Wasteland: $26. Christian Louboutin heels: $600. Style quotient: priceless.

While fashion snobs of the past would recoil at such blasphemy for pairing their designer pieces with off-the-rack *ukay-ukay* steals, any stylist would tell you that it's not about the accounting anymore these days. The secret is in expertly mixing and matching the high-end items with cheaper finds.

Savvy shoppers and celebs are now applying this fashion formula. It's no longer a fashion crime to mix that top from Topshop or H&M with a Chanel clutch and Gucci sunglasses.

Even fashion icons such as Kate Moss and Stella McCartney are giving their nod to mass retail fashion chains. Kate has designed her own collection for Topshop, while Stella has lent her talent to Adidas, Target in Australia, and H&M.

Roberto Cavalli also recently collaborated with Target in America, something that a few years ago would have been regarded as fashion sacrilege. Another tipping point was Karl Lagerfeld's embrace of H&M.

Because of this new mindset, certain top designers are contemplating adding an even cheaper third line to their affordable secondary collections that already cater to an aspirational market. Marc Jacobs and his partner, Robert Duffy, are reportedly considering the idea of a cheaper category below their successful Marc by Marc Jacobs line.

Armani Exchange, the accessible label under Emporio Armani, is now being refurbished to appeal to customers with a French Connection budget.

Some critics are calling this designer downgrading a devolution of luxury. It's basic economics, after all. When you make designer labels more available to the mass market, it loses its exclusivity and desirability, which form the unquantifiable allure factor of a status item.

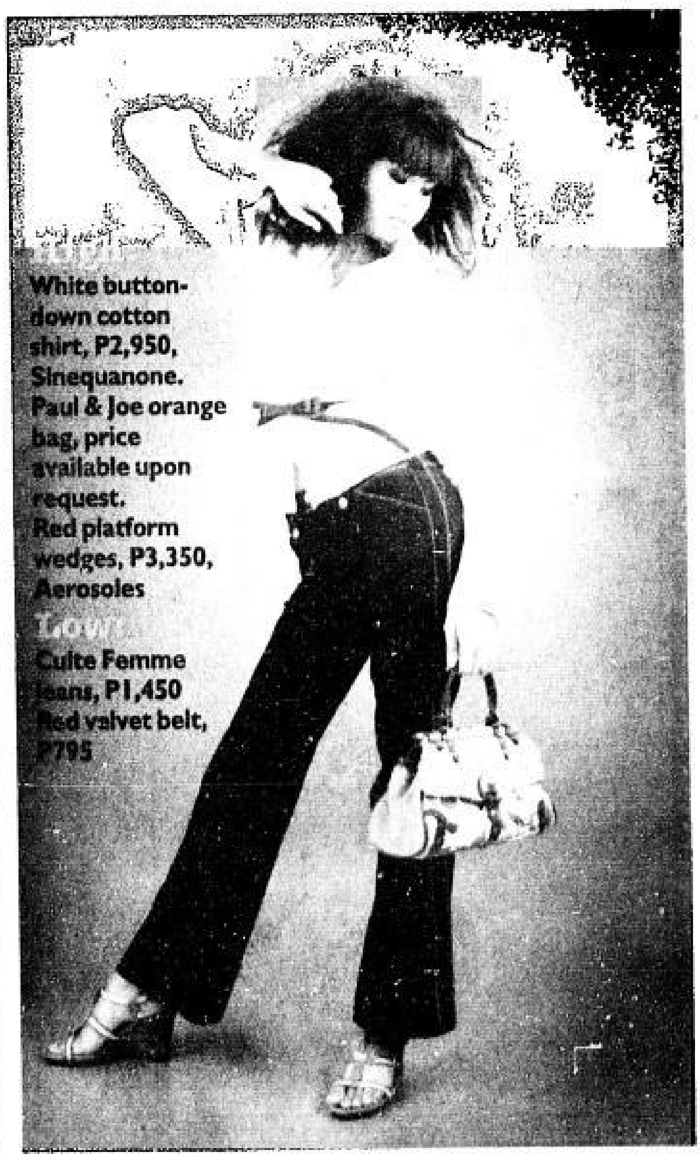
And so certain designers are sticking to their guns by keeping the mode even more upscale. Gucci is pushing for intense luxury, with Gucci Group's Robert Polet reportedly saying, "We are going up!" And at PPR, the strategy of its chief executive François-Henri Pinault is to go higher to "stop the banalization of luxury by pushing for quality and workmanship."

I believe that in the end it's still up to the individual's fashion IQ to be able to pull off designer wear. The wearer still creates the final call on the essence of the designer piece. One can don a $4,000 Marc Jacobs ensemble one day and a discounted Topshop mini dress the next and still look like a style icon without missing a beat (or breaking the bank). In the end, what counts the most is how you outshine what you wear.

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

High:
Baby pink Disco pumps by Melissa Shoes, P3,895
www.melissaphilippines.com

Low:
Fawn satin-layered dress, Culte Femme, P2,895
Ensembles faux pearls, P485



High:
White button-down cotton shirt, P2,950, Sinequanone.
Paul & Joe orange bag, price available upon request.
Red platform wedges, P3,350, Aerosoles

Low:
Culte Femme jeans, P1,450
Red valvet belt, P795

FVSHION BUZZ

Hot, haute, hot news!

Kate Moss clobbered in fashion bible's best-dressed list

LONDON—KATE MOSS GOT A triple slap in the face from Harper's Bazaar fashion magazine, whose best-dressed women in Britain 2007 list comes out Thursday.

Not only did the supermodel slide down the glossy monthly style bible's rankings, but she was also beaten by two models linked to her ex-boyfriends and a starlet dubbed "the new Kate Moss." Moss, who topped the 2004 list, came second in 2005 and third in 2006, plunged to 10th this year.

She was deemed less fashionable than rocker Pete Doherty's on-off lover, Romanian model Irina Lazareanu (ninth), and Belgian model Anouck Lepere (eighth), fiancee of Jefferson Hack, who is the father of Moss's daughter.

Russian model Natalia Vodianova was ranked the best-dressed woman of 2007, followed by British actress Thandie Newton and British model Agyness Deyn—nicknamed "the new Kate Moss" by the British press.

KATE, the mix Moss-ter

WWW.STYLEBYTES.NET

Outside the top 10, Jemima Khan, ex-wife of Pakistani cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan was ranked 12th; US singer Madonna came 15th and singer and activist Bob Geldof's daughter Peaches was 17th.

British actresses Sienna Miller (18th), Keira Knightley (21st), Rachel Weisz (22nd), Kate Winslet (23rd) and Emma Watson (24th) came further down the list.

The full list appears in the December issue of Harper's Bazaar.

Harper's Bazaar best dressed women of 2007: 1. Natalia Vodianova (model) 2. Thandie Newton (actress) 3. Agyness Deyn (model) 4. Helen Mirren (actress) 5. Lily Allen (singer) 6. Emily Blunt (actress) 7. J. K. Rowling (authoress) 8. Anouck Lepere (model) 9. Irina Lazareanu (model) 10. Kate Moss (model) *AFP*

LIMITED-EDITION Absolut Disco

Party in a bottle

SHINY disco bottle

ABSOLUT BRINGS BACK THE Absolut Disco bottle in limited edition.

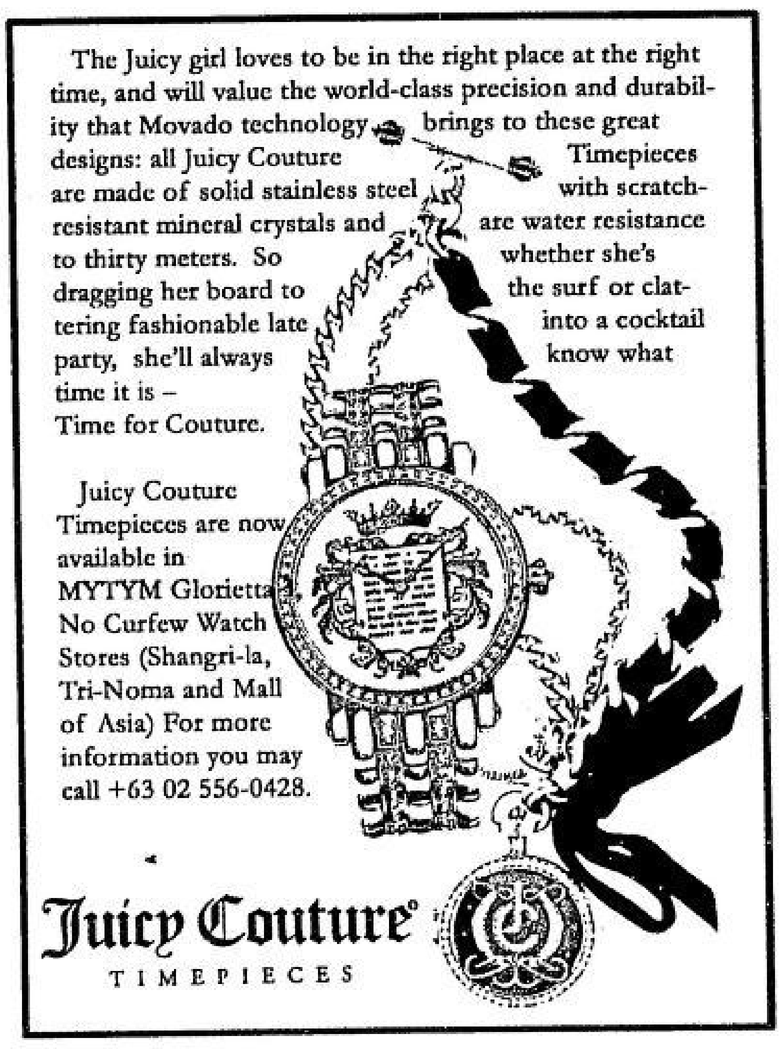
Absolut Disco was first introduced during the disco era of the 1970s.

The bottle looks much like the disco mobile mirror ball, seemingly giving off a thousand reflecting prisms.

Adding to the bottle's versatility and style is the Absolut Disco gift pack, which slides apart to disclose the classic Absolut vodka bottle.

The empty gift pack can easily be used as a mirror ball by hanging it in its loop. It may also serve as fashionable and bottle storage.

Absolut Disco is available at leading groceries.



The Juicy girl loves to be in the right place at the right time, and will value the world-class precision and durability that Movado technology brings to these great designs: all Juicy Couture Timepieces are made of solid stainless steel with scratch-resistant mineral crystals and are water resistance to thirty meters. So whether she's dragging her board to the surf or clattering fashionable late into a cocktail party, she'll always know what time it is –
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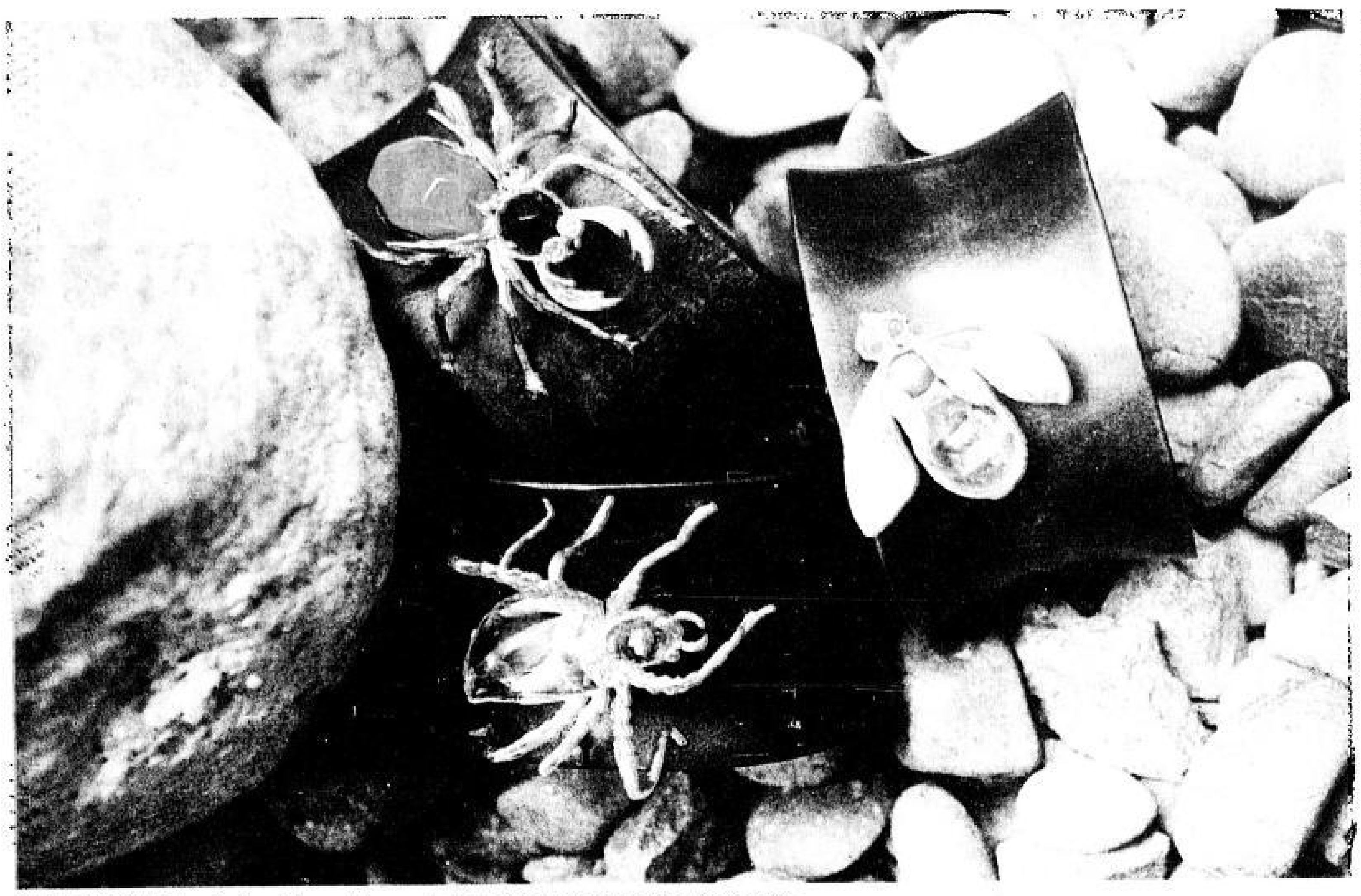
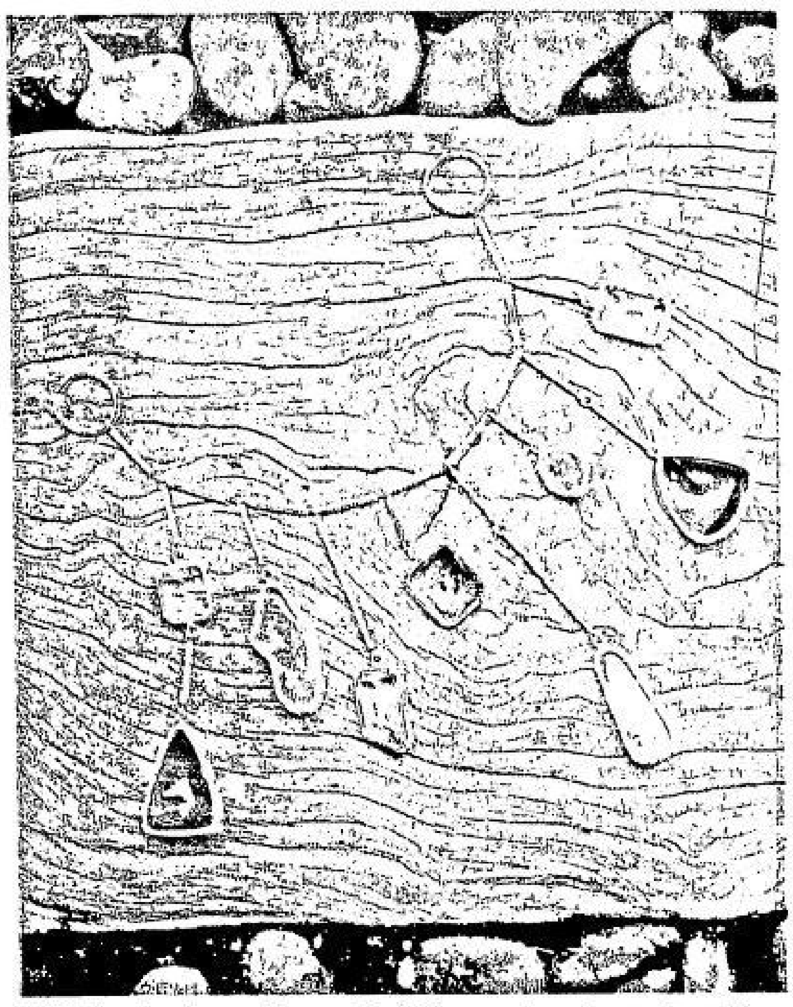


HANDCRAFTED sculptured insects in precious metals and gems, Mana Collection



WHITE and yellow-gold vermeil with fancy cut smoky quartz, gold rutilated quartz, and citrine, Intersection Collection

Bespoke beauties

Jewelry designer Wyn Wyn Ong's latest collection celebrates individuality and exclusivity

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

IN A TIME WHEN CONFORMITY is becoming more the rule than the exception, jewelry designer Wyn Wyn Ong has again chosen to buck the trend with her latest collection of jewelry pieces that celebrate individuality.

Drawing inspiration from shapes and colors found in nature as well as needle-like gold and iron filaments embedded in rutilated quartz, Ong has managed to come up with two lines aptly named "Mana" and "Intersection."

The latter will be available at Firma, while the former is set to grace the glass shelves of the newly opened AC+632 beginning Nov. 15. Both stores are located at Greenbelt in Makati.

To complement the "Mana" line, Ong also designed a limited collection of handcrafted bags made of Philippine nautilus shells and enhanced with such materials as faux ivory, sterling silver and kid leather.

"People have grown up in an age of mass production," says Ong. "That's why a good number of them are now going more for bespoke. They want truly unique items that reflect their individual personalities."

And that clamor, of course, also extends to their choice of jewelry. More and more discerning and affluent women are drawn to statement pieces that whisper (or scream, as the case may be) exclusivity.

"I'd like to think that when people buy jewelry, they're buying art pieces," Ong adds. "That's why I don't like the term accessory. It pertains to things that can be mass-produced."

Ong, who spends months on end researching, designing, sourcing and having her ideas executed by the best craftsmen here and abroad, would have none of it.

Seasoned designer

They may be big words especially coming from someone as soft-spoken as her, but she manages to say them without any hint of conceit or exaggeration. Like any seasoned designer (the collection happens to be her sixth), she allows the pieces to speak for themselves.

As far as craftsmanship and design are concerned, she has also learned a great deal along the way. Unlike the spontaneous and free-flowing character that defined most of her earlier works, she describes her latest collection as more "organic yet technically precise."

"Sometimes, the simpler the design, the more difficult it is to execute," she says. "For a seemingly whimsical design, there's a lot of technical difficulty involved."

Since she designed around most of the stones—instead of doing it the other way around—Ong had to work on achieving the perfect balance.

In other words, the stones—a constellation of garnets, carnelians, agates, citrines, tourmalines, moonstones and sculptural pieces of chunky rutilated quartz—had to be securely but stylishly set in place either in their gold, silver or vermeil base.

Rhodium, by the way, which remains anomalously shiny in any kind of weather, has no place in her collection. The process involves plating base metals to make them look like silver.

One objective

Apart from the passion Ong put into creating each piece, all her designs revolved around one objective: to bring out the natural beauty in each stone.

"It's not about the gold or the vermeil," she says. "What excites me is the stone. Everything flows from it."

The "Intersection" line draws its name from the fact that rutilated pieces of quartz, with their embedded needles, are the featured stones. No need for facets here. Since nature is the star, Ong simply brought out what has been trapped all along inside each stone.

But the story, or, to be more precise, the degree of difficulty that went into each piece, didn't end there.

Ong, for instance, gave her own unique twist to a design as classic as the starburst. The lines that make up the gold starburst setting were aligned with the lines found in the stone.

"'Intersection' also reflects what I'm feeling right now," she says. "I've learned to edit my life. I'd like to believe it's now less cluttered, more fine-tuned and more streamlined than before."

To break the monotony, she paired a number of pieces in the "Intersection" series with crocodile cuffs.

Of course, there will always be room for whimsy as well as Ong's undying fascination with nature, particularly indigenous insects. She found a perfect medium for this in her "Mana" line, which means inheritance, and the fact that almost everything was done by hand (*mano-mano*).

Even the back of each wooden bangle, for instance, is painstakingly lined with sterling silver. Apart from its aesthetic purpose, the silver lining also has the ergonomic function of allowing each piece to slide effortlessly into the would-be owner's wrist.

"Some of the rings are adjustable," she says with a wink, "but most of them are not. They come in different sizes. If a particular ring fits, then it's probably meant to be yours."

Ong adorned each "anatomically correct" vermeil image with colored semiprecious stones that reflect or, at least, remind her of how a particular creature it represents looks like in the wild.

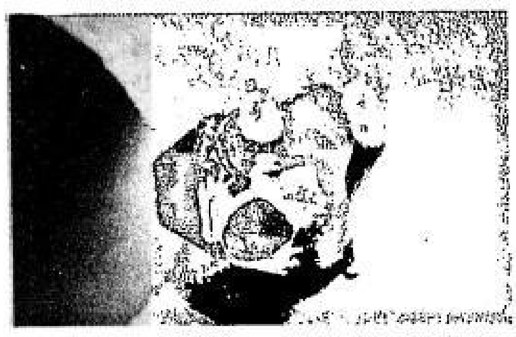
"For instance, I put carnelian, agate and citrine in this frog figure because frogs, especially Amazonian frogs, have different colorations," she says.

Common materials

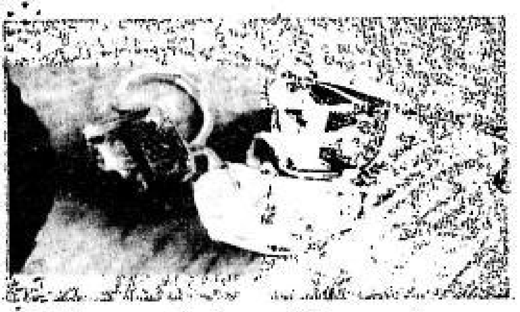
Again, her amazing talent for contrast and juxtaposition came to the fore in her choice of seemingly common materials such as Philippine hardwood and nuts, which she combined with precious and semiprecious stones and metals.

The nut is designed in such a way that it resembles a ripe *duhat* with fruit flies, poised to ravage its juice, buzzing around it. This time, however, the pests are made beautiful and precious thanks to Ong's use of faceted carnelians.

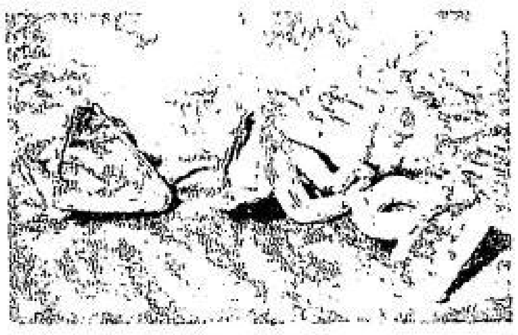
"More often than not, when we live in a place, we take so many things for granted or brush them aside as too common," says the Burma-born Ong. "As a result, we end up wasting so many opportunities to discover beautiful things. Most of the time, it's really simply a matter of seeing things in a new light."



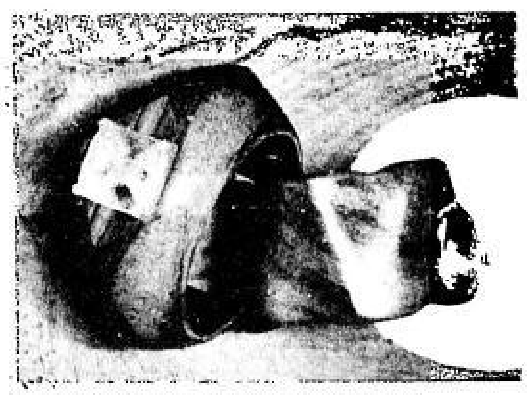
HANDCRAFTED sculptured frog and lily pads on carnelian and wood, Mana Collection



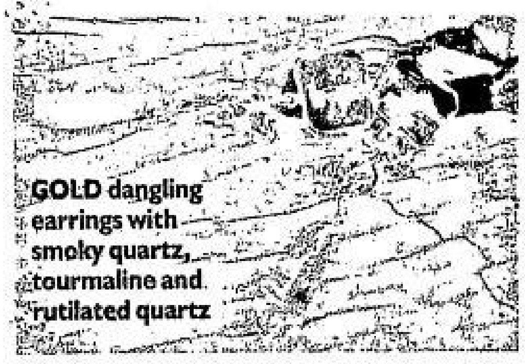
GOLD geometric rings with fancy cut gems



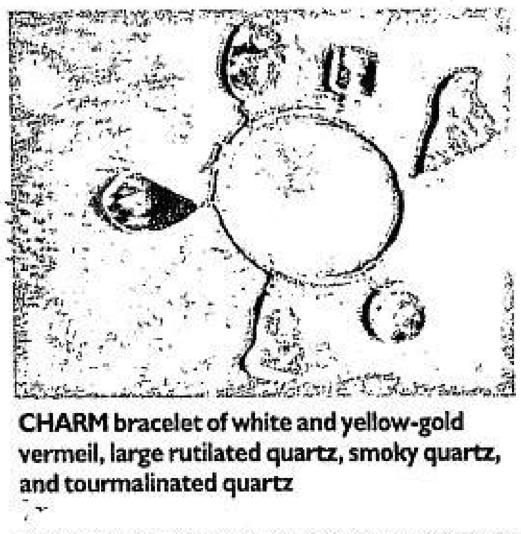
FREE-FORM sculptural rings



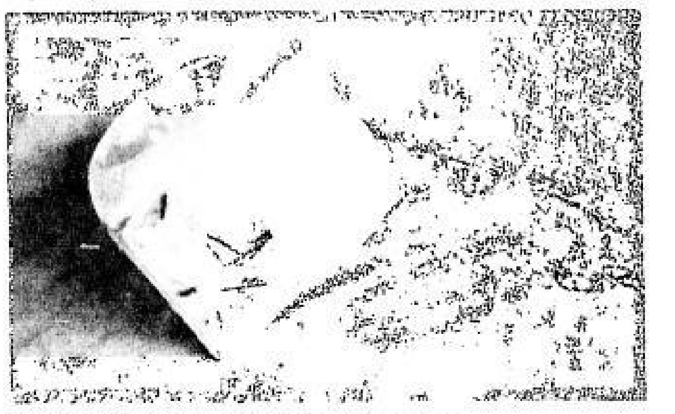
FREE-FORM hand-carved Philippine hardwood cuffs with large Brazilian citrines



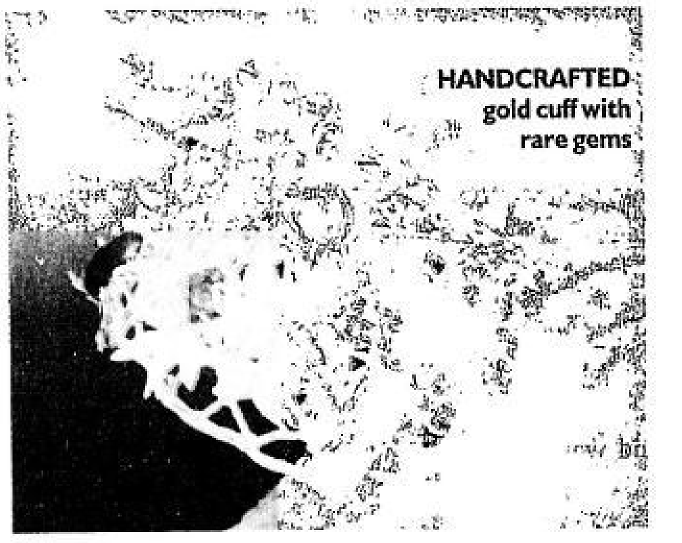
GOLD dangling earrings with smoky quartz, tourmaline and rutilated quartz



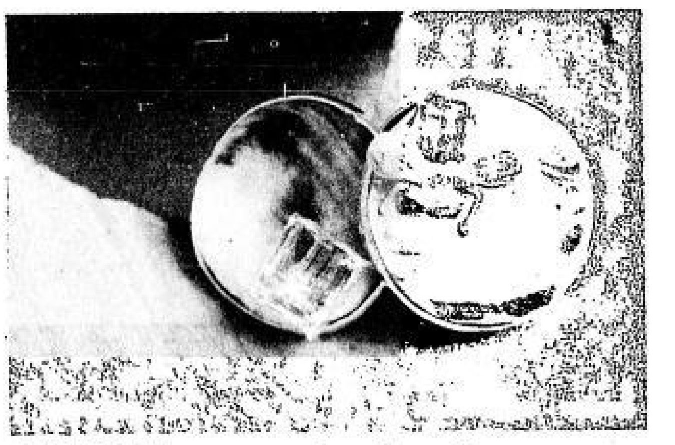
CHARM bracelet of white and yellow-gold vermeil, large rutilated quartz, smoky quartz, and tourmalinated quartz



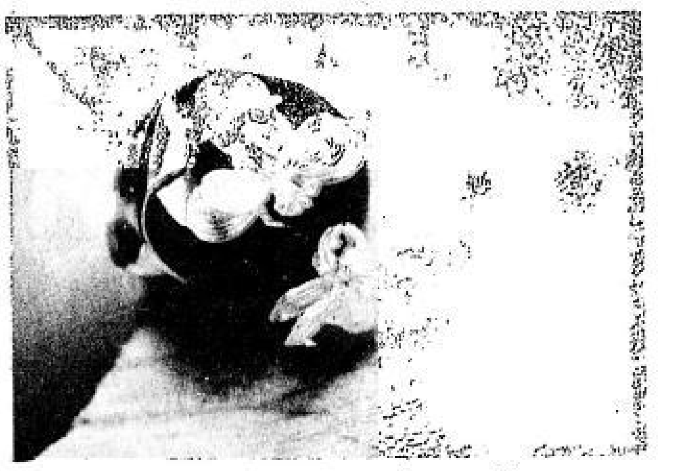
MOONSTONE and rutilated quartz ring



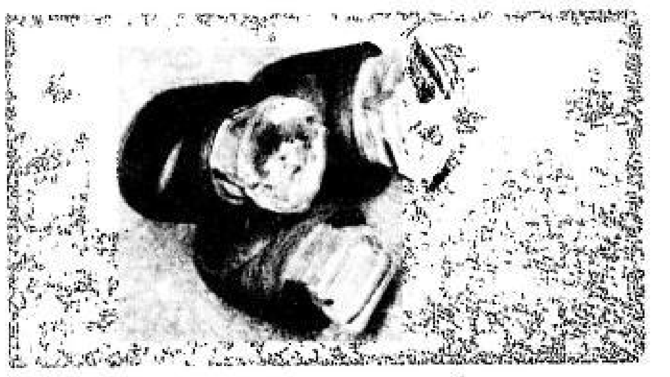
HANDCRAFTED gold cuff with rare gems



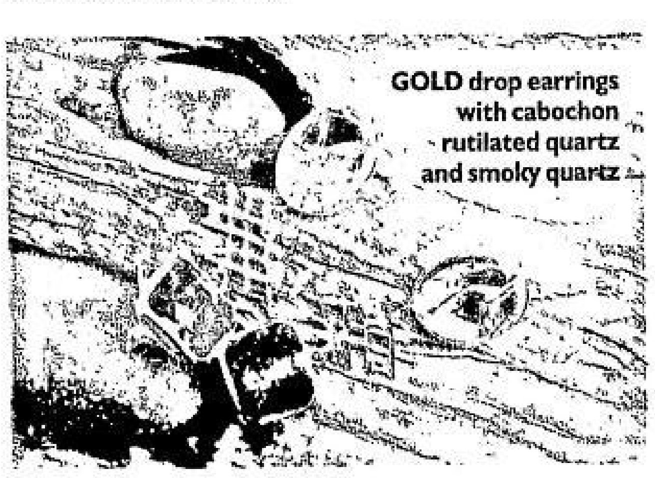
STERLING silver, aquamarine and mop rings



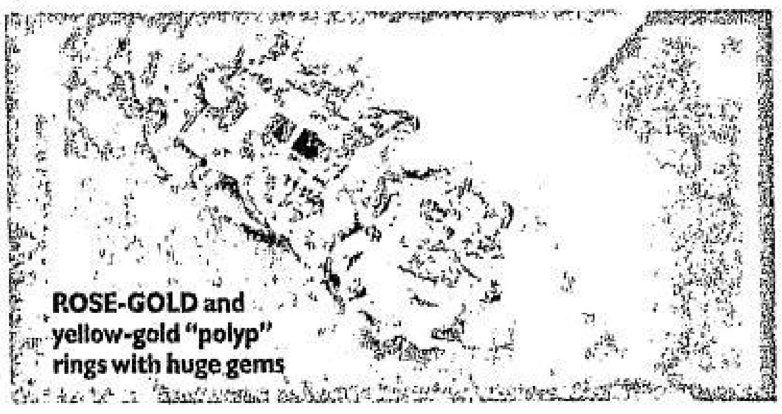
SCULPTURAL ring of carnelian and rose gold



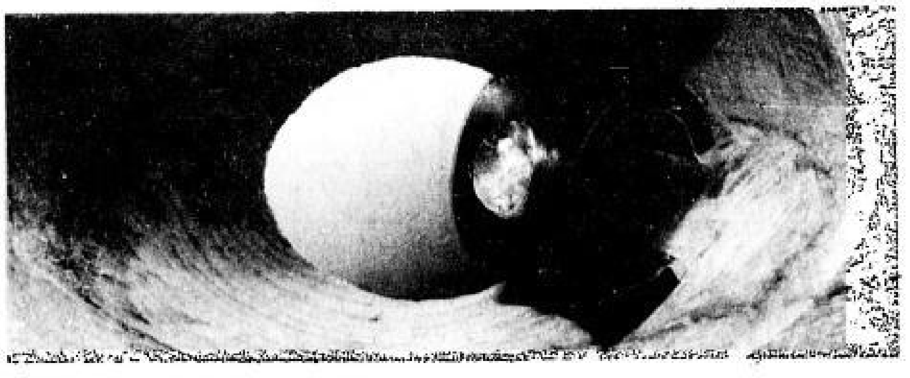
WOOD-AND-GEM rings



GOLD drop earrings with cabochon rutilated quartz and smoky quartz



ROSE-GOLD and yellow-gold "polyp" rings with huge gems



CUFF with carat gem

LIFESTYLE

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inquirer life name/age/city/message to
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FASHION

FASHION'S building blocks

Sportacular!

CELIO'S FALL/WINTER COLLECTION for men is all about being casual and sporty during the holidays.

The Casual look showcases three savvy lines: Bohemian, Uniform and Sport Chic.

The Romantic theme goes for Boho chic, with skinny scarves, newsboy caps and colorful stripes on form-fitting tees, and trench coats with subtle fancy touches in the lining as key pieces. The color palette is rich and warm like Bordeaux, purple, hazelnut.

Uniform Chic is utilitarian and cold. Military details are apparent, such as concealed plackets and epaulettes, multi-pocketed shirts and metal buttons. Grey is strongly used and combined with touches of khaki and autumn reds.

It's all about faded items with raw-edge detailing in Sport Chic. V-neck or zippered sweaters give that athletic feel, starkly contrasted against fine knitwear like wool and cashmere. The colors are not as bleak, combining warm hues like sky blue, yellow and orange, and pink to the already cool tones of grey and brown.

The more active men, meanwhile, has Celio's Sportswear line. The direction is more edgy and the use of graphics is overt. The three distinct styles are Denim Cult, The Worker and Sport Academy.

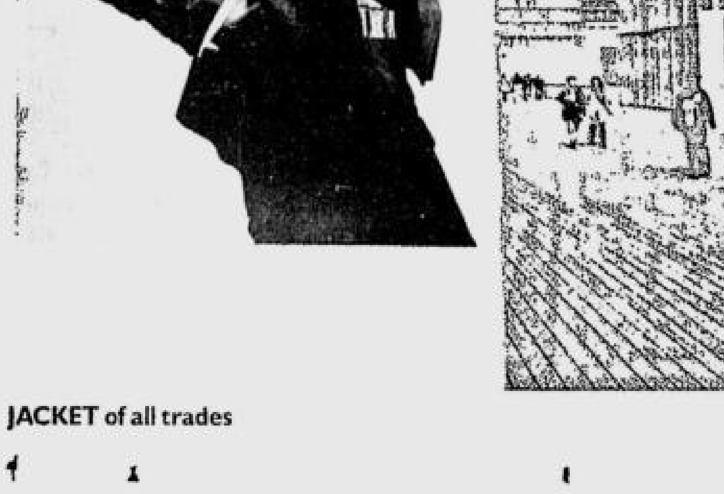
Denim Cult offers Gothic or rock-inspired touches. Mystical icon graphics and tattoo prints are scrubbed out or embroidered on shirts or figure-hugging jackets. The grays and mauves are accented with pinks and royal blues. Rocking slim-fit pants, narrow ties and elaborate belts finish the look.

The Worker look has touches of graphic lettering and rich details like zips, pocket flaps and leather trim. Distressed leather belts and faded denim accessories are employed. Key colors are red, midnight blue and purple.

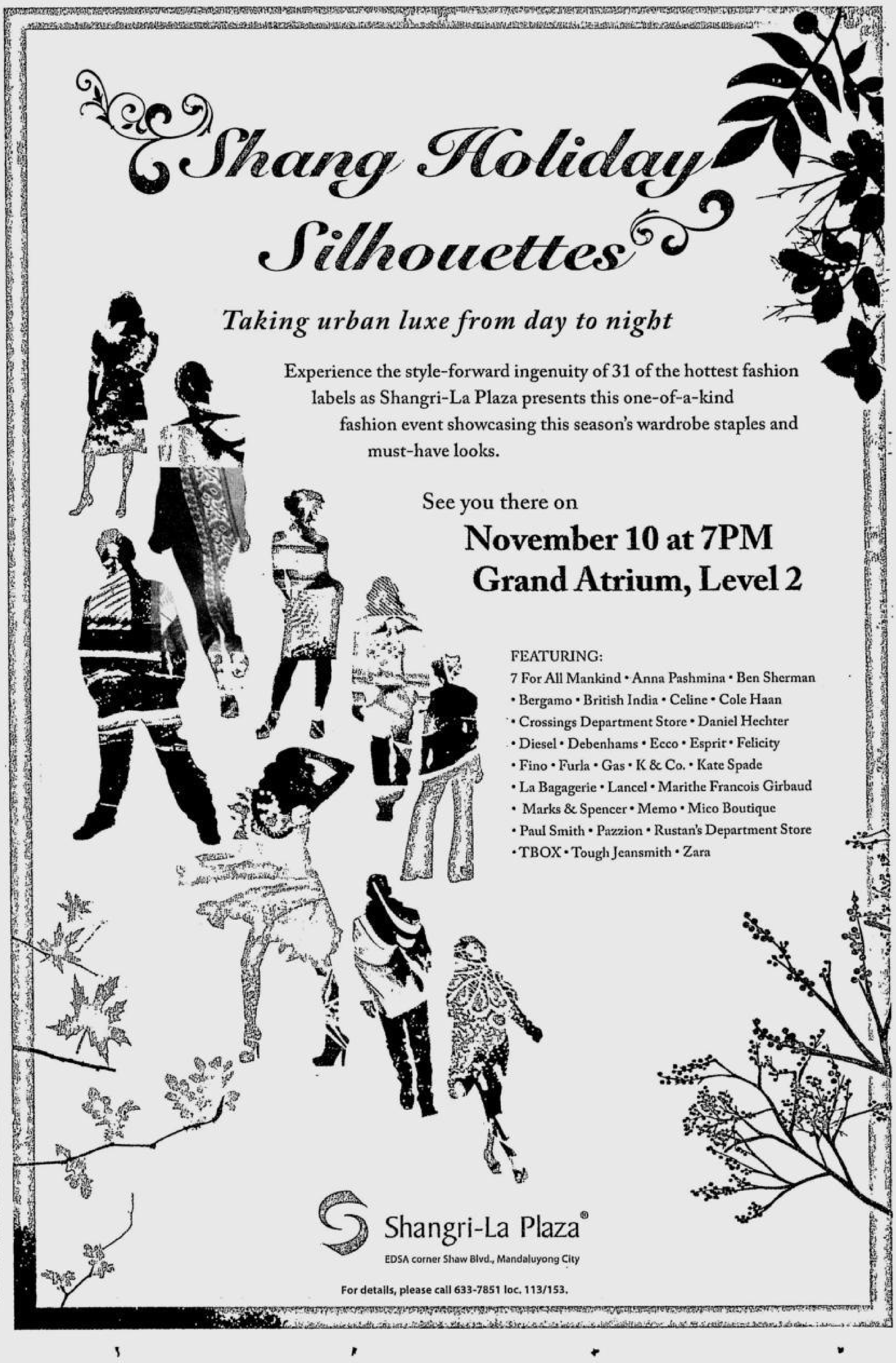
The hip and youngish Sports Academy is influenced mostly by streetwear. The camouflage print is in, along with contrasting stripes. You can easily pair these with comfortable cargo pants. It's all about playing up those graphic signs and symbols on fleece and knitwear, which carry bursts of neon colors in collars like pink, orange and yellow to the standard green, khaki and beige.

Celio stores are at Greenbelt 3, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Alabang Town Center, Mall of Asia, Gateway Mall and the recently opened concept stores at TriNoma Mall, Robinsons Galleria, Ayala Center Cebu.

STYLE calling



JACKET of all trades



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Experience the style-forward ingenuity of 31 of the hottest fashion labels as Shangri-La Plaza presents this one-of-a-kind fashion event showcasing this season's wardrobe staples and must-have looks.

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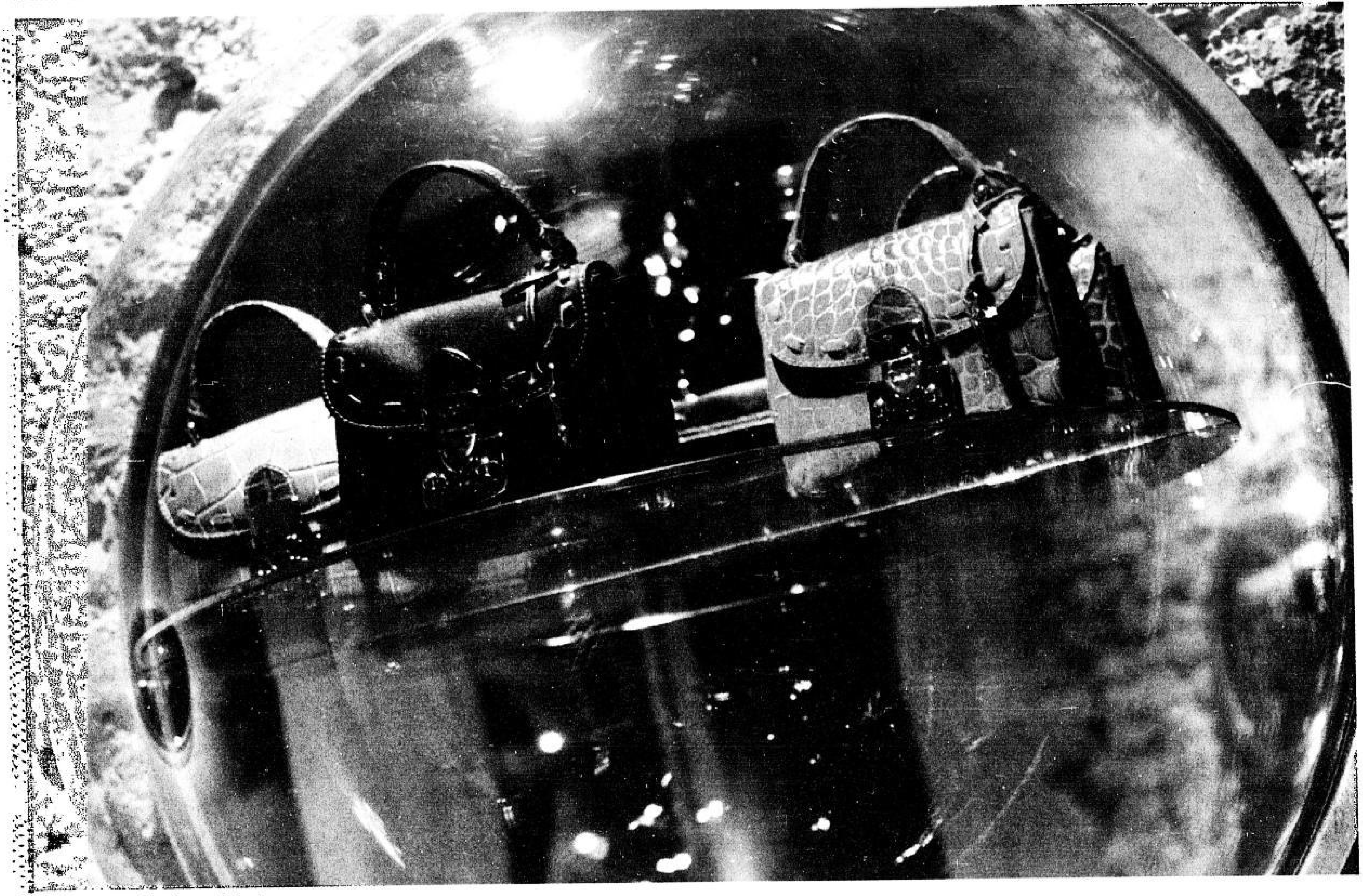


NAPPA lamintata Nausicca mini bag in moon

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Grab bag of Italian style

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

I DISCOVERED FURLA DURING A TRIP TO Milan way back in the mid-'90s. As I was walking along Corso Vittorio Emmanuele on my way to the famed Duomo, Furla's window display featuring chic and obviously well-made handbags caught my eye.

At the time, the Italian brand had no presence here in Manila and was basically unheard of, but I was instantly impressed by its clean, unpretentious line and good quality. Today, thanks to the SSI group, the brand is available to local consumers who appreciate Italian craftsmanship and simply elegant, even timeless designs.

We had the chance to interview Giovanna Furlanetto, president, managing director and owner of Furla Spa, and the face behind the success of the Italian fashion house.

Furlanetto, who has been fully committed to pursuing Furla's expansion, shares her thoughts on the Italian brand, its steady but successful growth worldwide, and Spring/Summer 2008 collection.

What was the mission vision of Furla when your father established it in 1927? What was the company all about?

When my father started the company in 1927, he was 20 years old and he used to trade accessories. His desire was to become independent with a business on his own, and used to travel all over Italy and also to Austria and Germany to import what was missing in Italy.

In the '60s/'70s, my two brothers and myself entered the business that had at that point strong financial roots and we started producing with our brand name "Furla" the first accessories, later we started developing mono brand Furla stores.

How has that mission vision evolved over the years and under your leadership?

Under my leadership we increased our international distribution. We are now in 64 countries, and we developed our network of shops in the best streets of the most strategical markets, upgrading the quality of our products.

How do you want people to perceive Furla, the brand?

I would like our customers to appreciate our innovative design, the beautiful quality and leathers, the Italian handcraft tradition. Through our products we promote a system of aesthetical, ethical cultural and artistic values. Our products have a sober elegance, which is always trendy, thanks to the constant research of our creative team.

Describe the Furla woman.

A dynamic woman, always elegant and ready to be distinguished for her sobriety and style. A woman who wants to feel comfortable in every situation and time of the day, always perfect, but simple, not snobbish. A sophisticated woman, brilliant, strong, who doesn't follow a logo. A working woman, with children, traveling with a thousand things to do, but who wants to be always, everywhere, however feminine with unique style.

What would you say are the strengths of Furla? Weaknesses?

The strengths of Furla are first in the wonderful range of products, strong and qualified international distribution, beautiful stores in the best streets worldwide, the desire of continuous improvement in all areas of the company.

The weaknesses? The research of excellence is never ending and we are perfectly aware of this.

What are some concrete steps you're taking to propel Furla into the future?

We will continue to research how to be better. We will continue to improve our distribution and our stores, our visual merchandising and our retail plans. We will upgrade our products without leaving the niche of market we hold with the best possible quality and a well-related price.

How do you aim to compete with other fashion-forward, high-quality and high-profile brands in the market?

We compete with our strong brand, our 240 mono brand stores and shop-in-shops, our innovative though recognizable designs.

Tell us more about Furla per l'Arte. What made you decide to come up with such an award?

My passion for contemporary art resulted in a project called Furla per l'Arte that was founded in 1999 to monitor young up-and-coming artists.

Over the past years, the contest has gained major visibility and international momentum, also thanks to the global and farsighted vision of curator Chiara Bertola. It was my desire to support Italian creativity and to give something in return to a country, which has been a fundamental market for the brand.

Over the centuries Italy has expressed artistic and cultural values that are unique and unsurpassed so we must continue to stimulate young Italian artists in a world that is increasingly competitive.

Where do you see Furla 10 years hence?

I see the Furla brand continuing to develop, following day after day the research of beauty and excellence.

How do you plan to celebrate Furla's 80th year in the market?

We celebrated our 80th anniversary with a beautiful party at Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo in Japan last Oct. 26, following the opening of the exhibition "Space for your Future."

What was the inspiration for Furla's new Spring/Summer '08 collection and what makes it unique? How are the bag/shoe details symbolic of Furla's vision/current statement?

During the recent fashion week in Milan, we presented to the worldwide international press and buyers Furla's main collection and launched our new Talent Hub project.

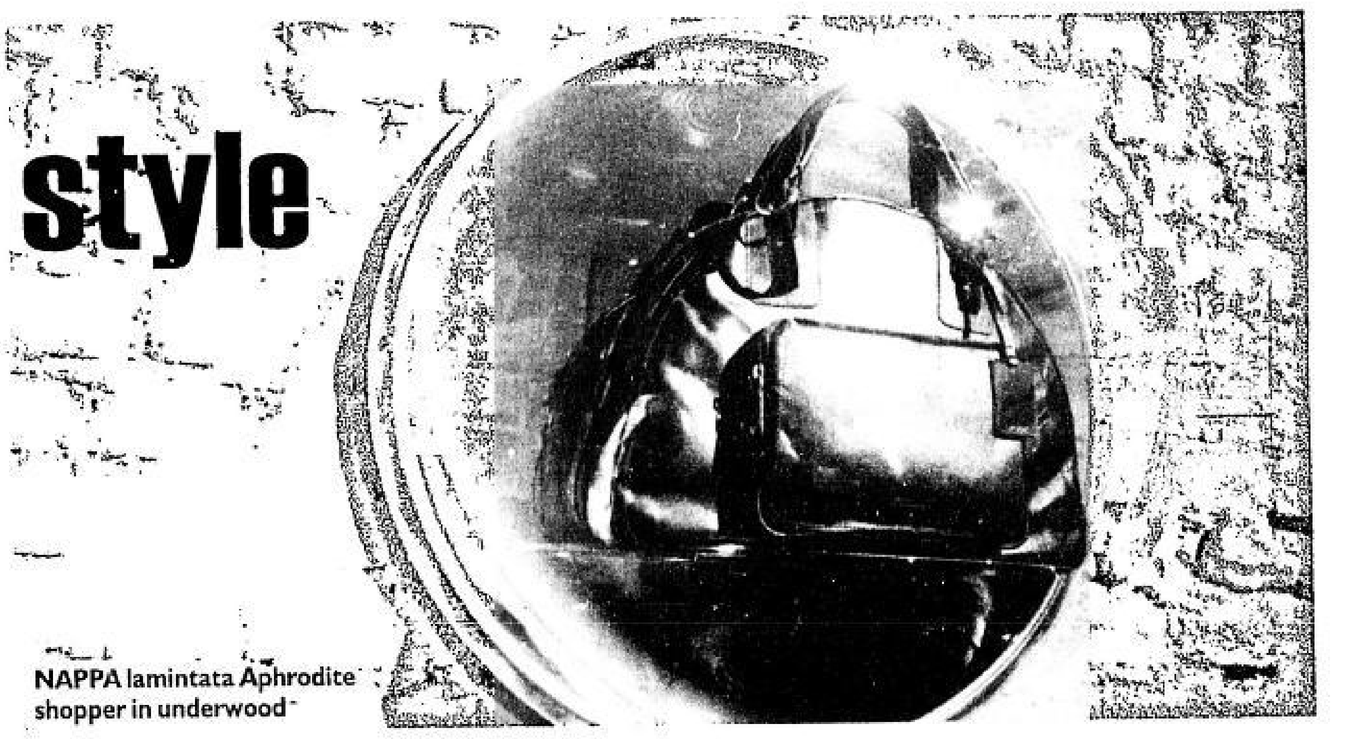
The Furla collection is inspired by elegance and simplicity, sobriety and exuberance. Contrasts are filtered and modulated by the uniquely feminine strain of romanticism that has always distinguished Furla collections. An "on-the-road" touch is seen in bags with biker-style metal studs, plaques and chains from the '80s, whilst delicate, pearly tones such as pink, French pink, light blue and cornflower give the models a softer edge.

The shapes are ample and deconstructed. Hides are soft and delicate, like nappa and calfskin, specially worked to enhance the pearly and metallic effects. Exotic materials and hides, such as lizard and crocodile (polished and greased) are plaited using a special technique of which only the Italian craft tradition can boast.

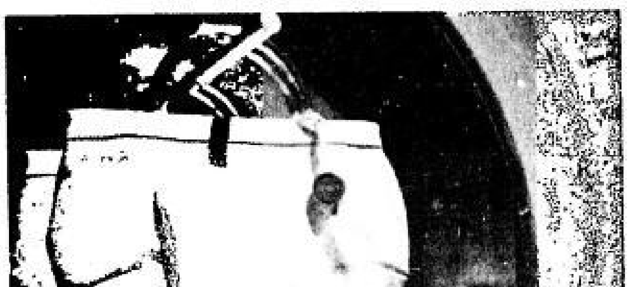
These materials appear alongside exclusive, sophisticated fabrics such as satin and grosgrain, achieving their finest expression in masterfully calibrated colors. Optical tones and graphics, mainly black and white, combine with surprising brushstrokes of color to create highly sophisticated effects.

The design of these models stems from color itself. The more vibrant and brilliant tones of sunflower yellow, dahlia orange, geranium red and hydrangea mauve blend with warmer colors to create chromatic combinations of striking visual impact.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph



NAPPA lamintata Aphrodite shopper in underwood



VITELLO stampa whips Matilde Handbag in roccio.

GROSGRAIN Venere clutch in ortensia and geranio

NAPPA perlata Halley shoulder bag in bianco perla and vitello lucido Halley shoulder bag in geranio

GIOVANNA Furlanetto, president, managing director and owner of Furla Spa

ONE NIGHT, WHILE JERICHO SLEEPS...
GUYS WE HAVE A BIG PROBLEM! HEART'S GIFT WAS STOLEN!
WHOEVER DID THIS LEFT A CLUE. LET'S CHECK IT OUT!
NIKKI! WE NEED YOUR HELP! MEET US AT THE ABANDONED WAREHOUSE MIDNIGHT TONIGHT!
ALRIGHT! THE GIRLS AND I WILL MEET YOU THERE!
AT THE ENEMY HEADQUARTERS...
THOSE GUYS LOOK TOUGH! BUT I'M READY FOR THEM!
LET'S SNEAK UP ON THEM AND FIND THE GIFT!
THEY'RE GONNA PAY FOR WHAT THEY DID! WE'RE READY FOR THEM!
A FIGHT BEGINS!
I FOUND IT! THE GIFT IS SAFE!
THANK YOU SO MUCH JERICHO!
PENSHOPPE

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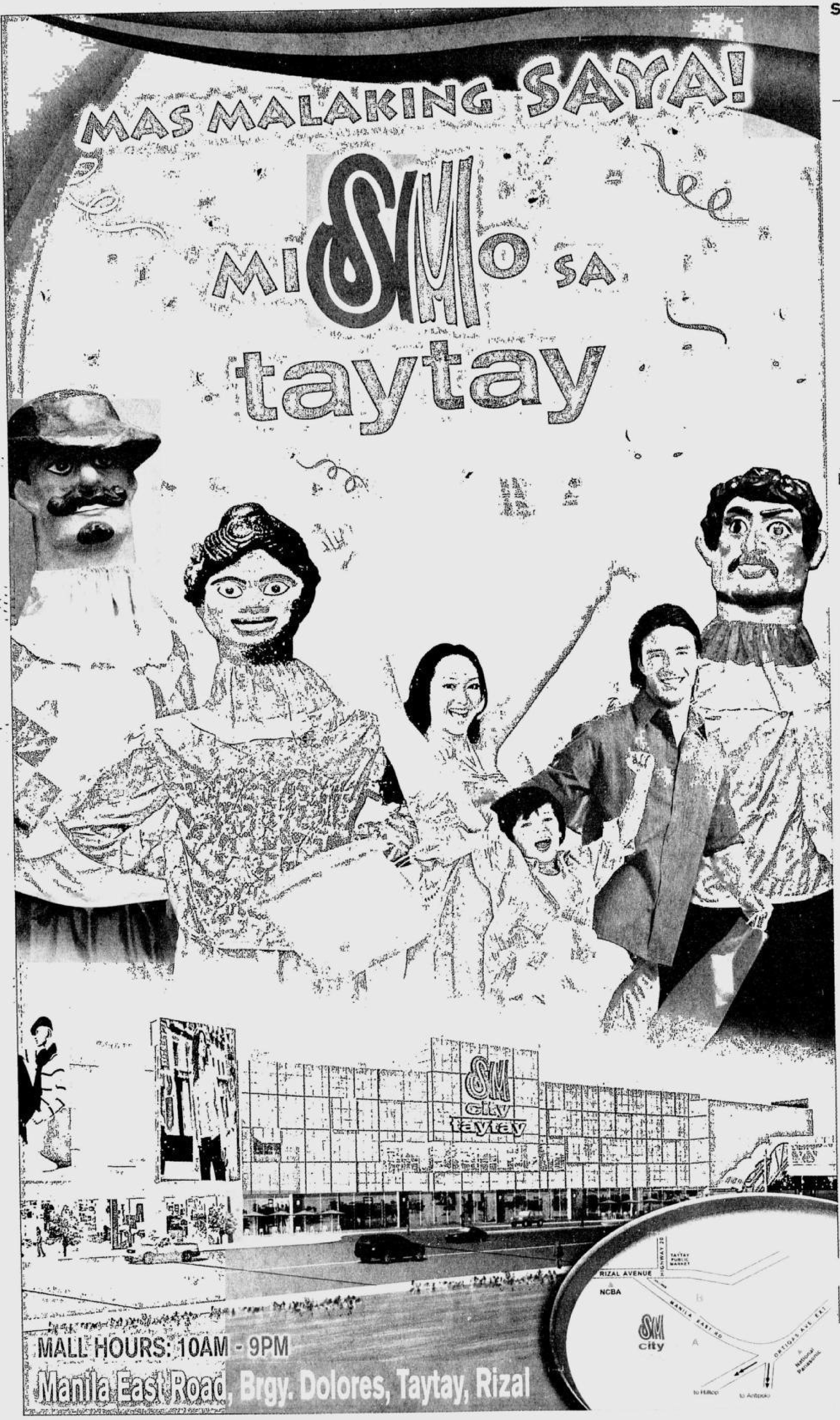

MALL HOURS: 10AM - 9PM

Manila East Road, Brgy. Dolores, Taytay, Rizal

SHOPPING
- Ace Hardware
- Hypermarket
- SM Appliance
- SM Department Store
- Surplus Shop
- Watsons

- Arrow
- Astrovision
- Bench
- Blue Magic
- Celine
- Cyberone
- Dickies
- EMJ Watch Repair
- Folded and Hung
- Games and Gadgets
- Genevieve
- Kamiseta
- Karat World
- Marcella
- Mint Boutique
- National Bookstore
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- Oddysey
- Oxygen
- Penshoppe
- Precious Pages
- Red Alert
- Shapes
- Silver Works
- Toby's
- Tribal
- Von Dutch

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- Bacolod Chicken Inasal
- Buko ni Frutas
- Cabalen
- Chicken Company
- Chowking
- Dairy Queen
- Dimsum N' Dumplings Tea Bar
- French Baker
- Greenwich
- Hen Lin
- Inihaw Express
- Jollibee
- Kusina ni Gracia
- Lots A Pizza
- Lydia's Lechon
- McDonald's
- Ming's Garden
- Mr. O. Manyaman
- Pizza Hut
- Quickly
- Red Ribbon
- Sizzling Plate
- Tokyo Tokyo
- Tropical Hut

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- Quantum
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- Davids For Rever
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- Dentcare & Therabreath
- Executive Optical
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- Friendly Hills Hospital
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INNO Sotto with Imelda Cojuangco, Isabel Preysler and Bea Valdes at his gala show

Inno Sotto will inaugurate his new line at Rustan's before the end of the year

LIFE-STYLED
Thelma Sioson San Juan

RTW's comeback kid

THAT WAS A SUPER A-list, if I ever saw one. Each row of tiffany chairs in last week's gala show of **Inno Sotto** and **Bea Valdes** at Shangri-La Makati seated the desirable demographic, starting with the guests of honor, **Imelda Cojuangco** and **Isabel Preysler**, in the center front rows.

However, astounding as the guest list and the show were, the real bombshell was what we heard in a whisper during the show. If this significant news comes true end of year, it will really be a milestone in Inno's career. But more on that later.

Back to people-watching. Like what Cojuangco told us in her trademark soft voice, which is even softer now, her bouncing back to good health was nothing short of a miracle. Now she's even able to grace events again. At Inno's gala, though she moved rather feebly, she still had that presence. On the arm of Shangri-La GM **Greg Dogan**, who escorted her out of the ballroom after the show, Cojuangco was sheer classic elegance in an Oscar de la Renta black and white floral ballgown, with a "yaya" holding up the bustle.

(Wannabe hostesses who aspire to invite Cojuangco to their show will do well to have two chairs available to ensure their guest of honor's comfort, so that her resplendent gown doesn't hem her in.)

Isabel Preysler

Preysler, Europe's social icon who flew in from Madrid just for the show, was in an Inno Sotto black chantilly lace on nude (meaning the color of skin) gown during cocktails. But someone accidentally spilled wine on it so she had to slip into a Dolce&Gabbana gingham checker gown, worn under Inno's lace, for her short speech before the show. As Tatler's **Anton San Diego** held the microphone for her, Isabel read a short spiel on the good work of the Virlanie Foundation, the gala's beneficiary which **Marietta Santos** has been linking up with benefactors for three decades now. Isabel did an ad lib to congratulate her cousin **Rosanna Fores** for having won the barangay election that day—a personal loving touch from this reed-thin beauty.

The front rows on all sides seated Inno's loyal clientele, friends and muses, led by **Margarita Fores**, who was a stand-out in simplicity in black Inno Sotto pants and white Balenciaga top. It was Fores, through her floral-styling firm, that designed the floral arrangements placed strategically in the ballroom foyer. They weren't really only flowers; they were more like sculptures using natural materials.

The beautiful Panlilio women were around to show support for Bea, nudged on undoubtedly by uncle **Joey Panlilio**. Bea's mom **Pam Valdes** was there, with Pam's youngest sister **Patricia**. (I didn't spot my good friend and tennis mate **Johnny Valdes**, also an uncle of Bea's.)

Mary Prieto was in a red gown, its red too vibrant to overlook in a row in front of **Tingting Cojuangco**. Visible were **Carol Garcia, Menchu Soriano, Tina Ocampo, Doris Magsaysay Ho, Lizette Cojuangco, Marissa Cojuangco, Nini Licaros** (fresh from her Love 14 project), **Rhoda Aldanese**, and Rustan's **Criselda Lontok**.

RTW/G4

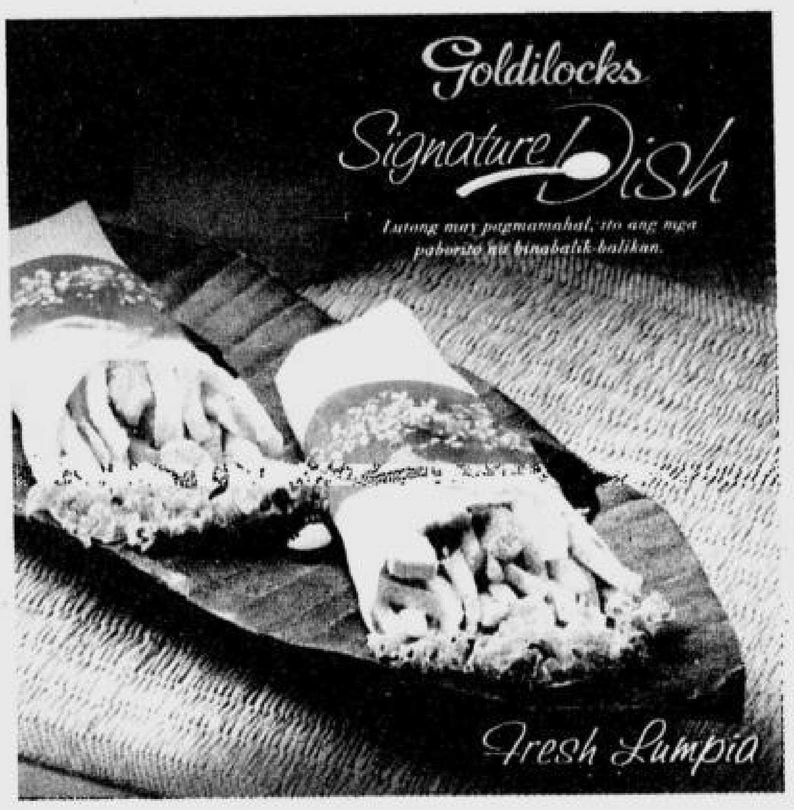
GALA collection by Inno Sotto

Did you know?

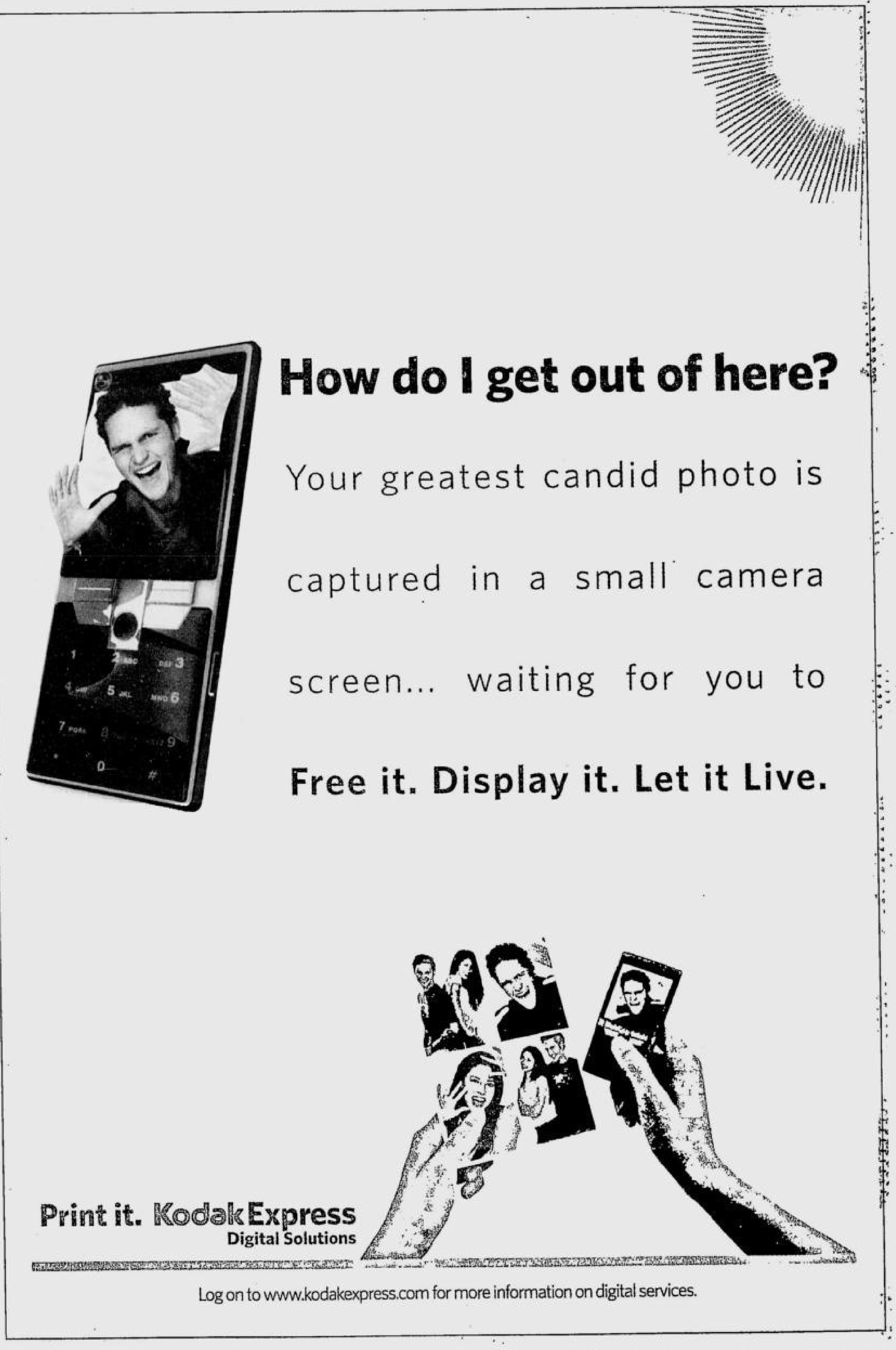
The Hula Hoop was invented in the 50's.

Introduced in 1951. Like the Hula Hoop, Cream Corn Starch has been used by generations.

Also available: Cream ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR



Goldilocks
Signature Dish
Lutong may pagmamahal, ito ang mga paborito na binabalik-balikan.
Fresh Lumpia



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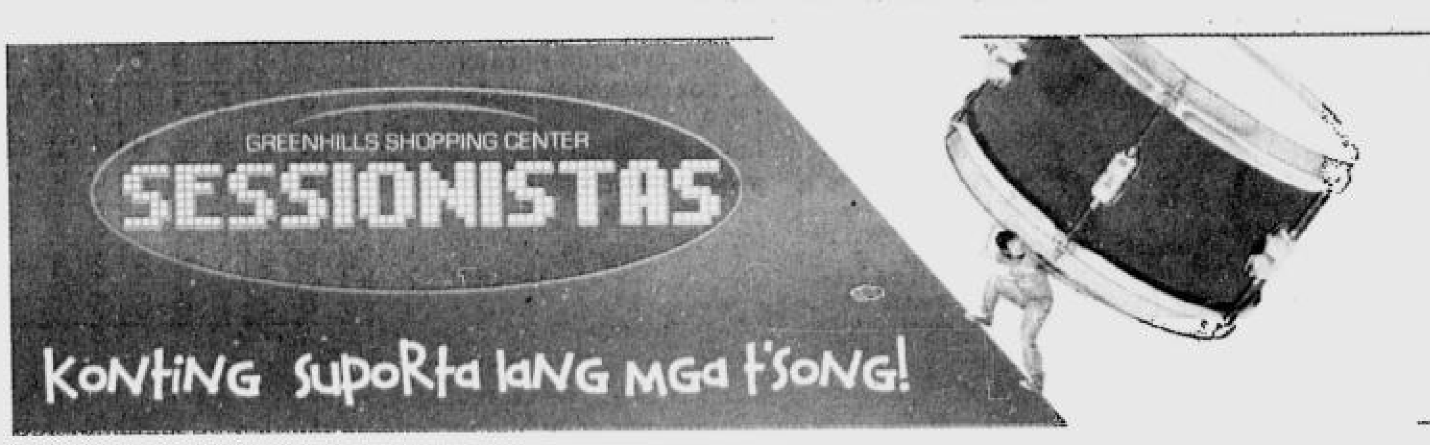

Come to the Greenhills Sessionistas and show your support as your favorite college bands jam with some of the country's hottest acts!

G-Strip Parking Area
The Launch Party on Oct. 26 with Sinosikat?, Julianne , Freestyle & Stonefree
Jam Sessions on Nov. 09 with Stonefree

Night Market Area
Jam Sessions on Nov.17 with Julianne
Sessionistas Showdown on Nov.23 with Sinosikat?
Grand Concert on Nov.30 with Freestyle

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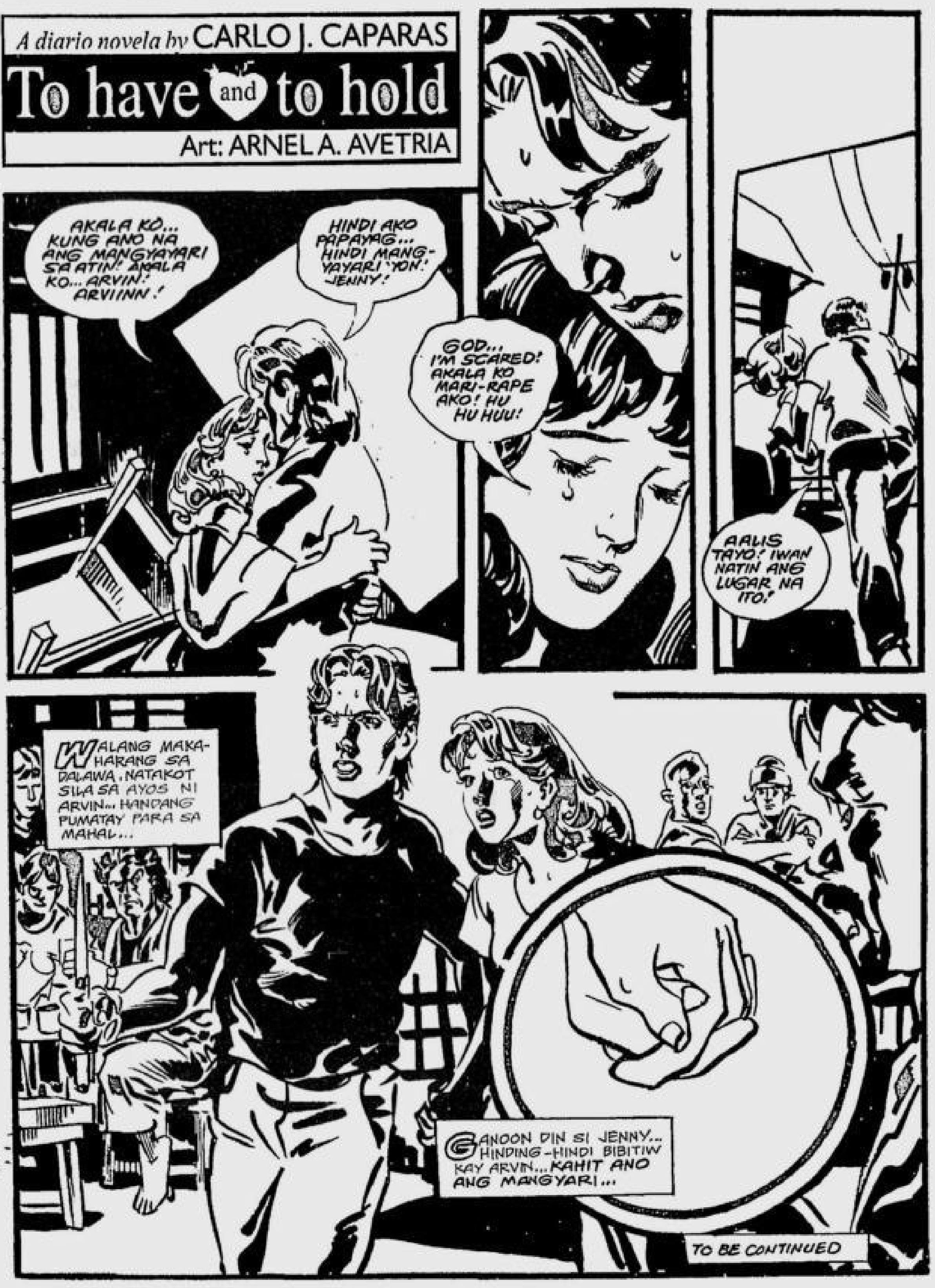
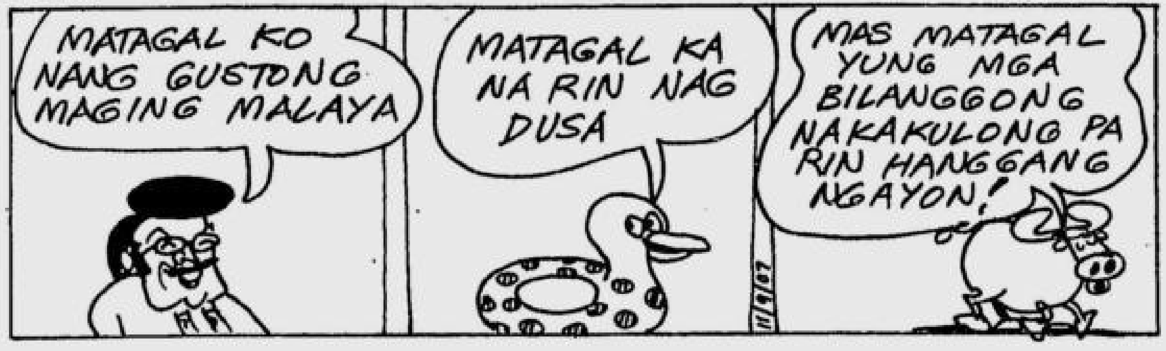
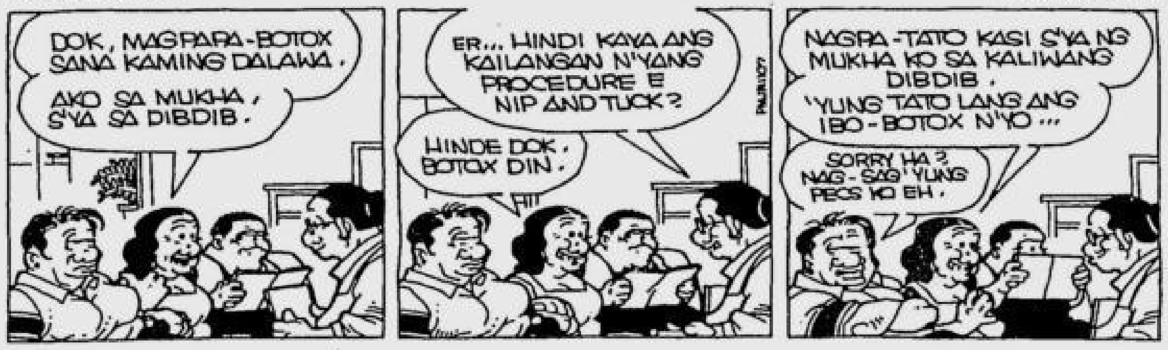

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS
To have and to hold
Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA
AKALA KO... KUNG ANO NA ANG MANGYAYARI SA ATIN! AKALA KO... ARVIN! ARVIINN!
HINDI AKO PAPAYAG... HINDI MANGYAYARI 'YON! JENNY!
GOD... I'M SCARED! AKALA KO MARI-RAPE AKO! HU HU HUU!
AALIS TAYO! IWAN NATIN ANG LUGAR NA ITO!
WALANG MAKAHARANG SA DALAWA. NATAKOT SILA SA AYOS NI ARVIN... HANDANG PUMATAY PARA SA MAHAL...
GANOON DIN SI JENNY... HINDING-HINDI BIBITIW KAY ARVIN... KAHIT ANO ANG MANGYARI...
TO BE CONTINUED

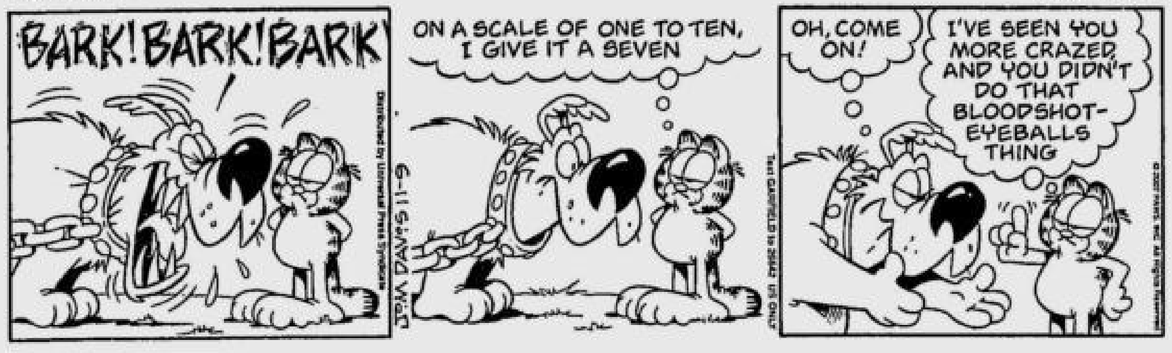
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


MATAGAL KO NANG GUSTONG MAGING MALAYA
MATAGAL KA NA RIN NAG DUSA
MAS MATAGAL YUNG MGA BILANGGONG NAKAKULONG PA RIN HANGGANG NGAYON!
11/9/07

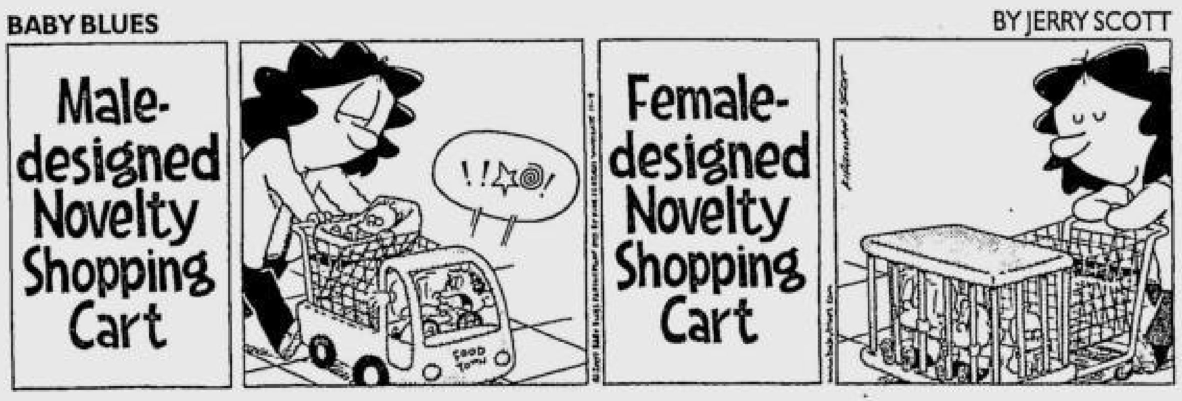
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


DOK, MAGPAPA-BOTOX SANA KAMING DALAWA.
AKO SA MUKHA, S'YA SA DIBDIB.
ER... HINDI KAYA ANG KAILANGAN N'YANG PROCEDURE E NIP AND TUCK?
HINDE DOK. BOTOX DIN.
NAGPA-TATO KASI S'YA NG MUKHA KO SA KALIWANG DIBDIB. 'YUNG TATO LANG ANG IBO-BOTOX N'YO...
SORRY HA? NAG-SAG 'YUNG PECS KO EH.

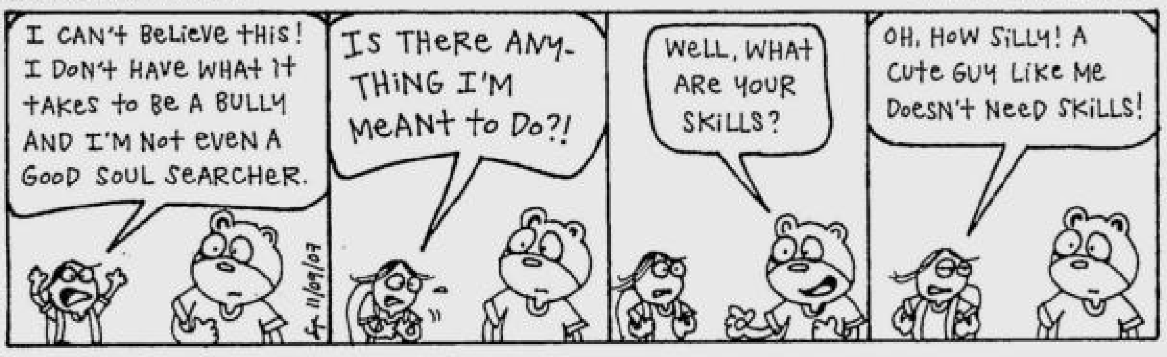
GARFIELD
BY JIM DAVIS


BARK! BARK! BARK
ON A SCALE OF ONE TO TEN, I GIVE IT A SEVEN
OH, COME ON!
I'VE SEEN YOU MORE CRAZED AND YOU DIDN'T DO THAT BLOODSHOT-EYEBALLS THING
JIM DAVIS 11-9

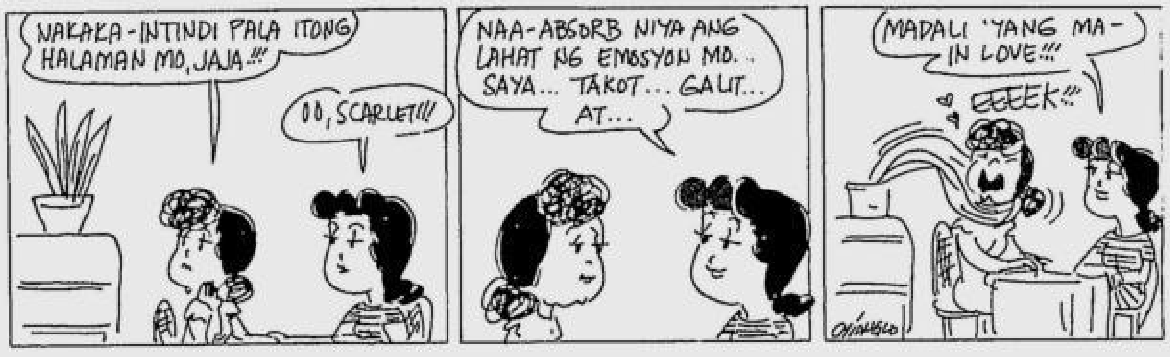
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


Male-designed Novelty Shopping Cart
!!☆@!
FOOD TOWN
Female-designed Novelty Shopping Cart

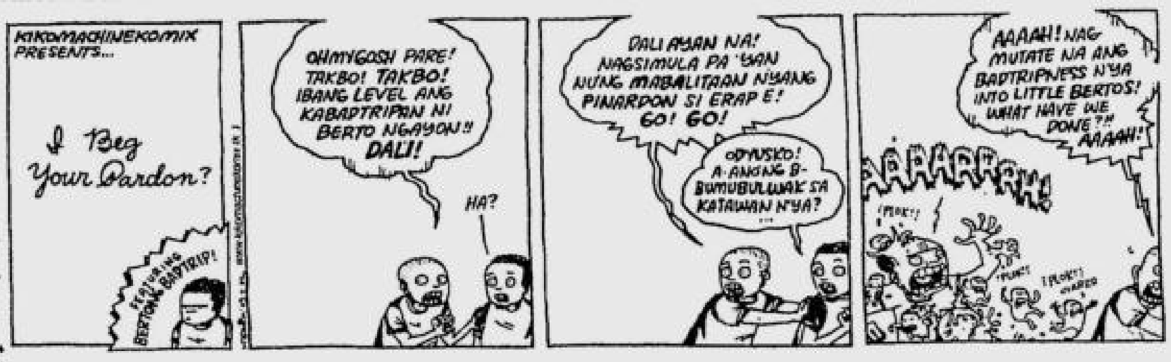
ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! I DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A BULLY AND I'M NOT EVEN A GOOD SOUL SEARCHER.
IS THERE ANYTHING I'M MEANT TO DO?!
WELL, WHAT ARE YOUR SKILLS?
OH, HOW SILLY! A CUTE GUY LIKE ME DOESN'T NEED SKILLS!
11/09/07

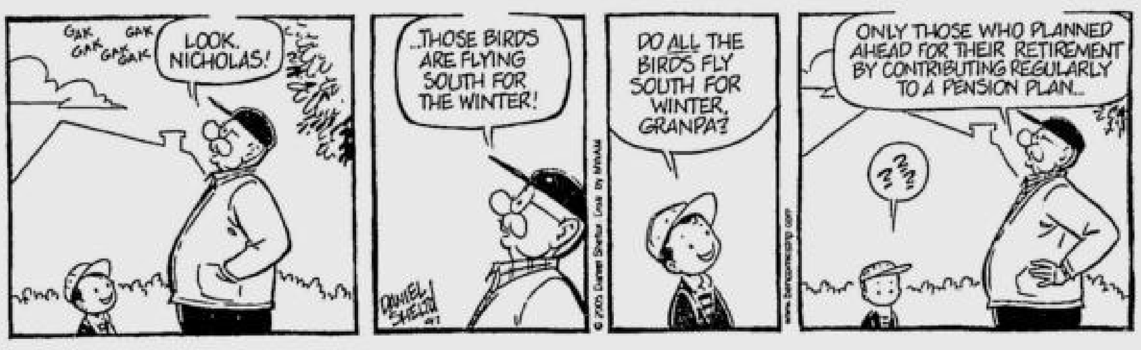
LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAKAKA-INTINDI PALA ITONG HALAMAN MO, JAJA!!!
OO, SCARLET!!!
NAA-ABSORB NIYA ANG LAHAT NG EMOSYON MO.. SAYA... TAKOT... GALIT... AT...
MADALI 'YANG MA-IN LOVE!!!
EEEEK!!!
CHIONGLO

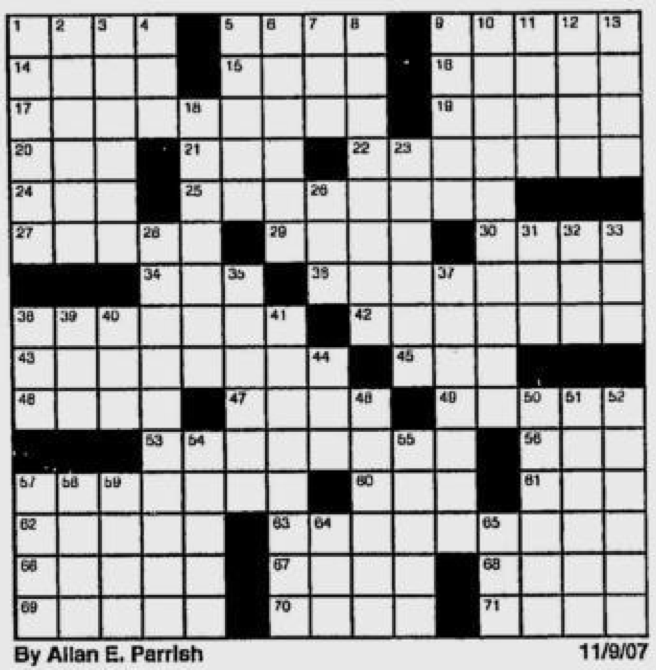
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINEKOMIX PRESENTS...
I Beg Your Pardon?
FEATURING BERTONG BADTRIP!
OHMYGOSH PARE! TAKBO! TAKBO! IBANG LEVEL ANG KABADTRIPAN NI BERTO NGAYON!! DALI!
HA?
DALI AYAN NA! NAGSIMULA PA 'YAN NUNG MABALITAAN NYANG PINARDON SI ERAP E! GO! GO!
ODYUSKO! A-ANONG B-BUMUBULWAK SA KATAWAN NYA?
AAAAH! NAGMUTATE NA ANG BADTRIPNESS NYA INTO LITTLE BERTOS! WHAT HAVE WE DONE?!! AAAAH!
AAARRRRRH!

BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


GAK GAK GAK GAK
LOOK, NICHOLAS!
...THOSE BIRDS ARE FLYING SOUTH FOR THE WINTER!
DO ALL THE BIRDS FLY SOUTH FOR WINTER, GRANPA?
ONLY THOSE WHO PLANNED AHEAD FOR THEIR RETIREMENT BY CONTRIBUTING REGULARLY TO A PENSION PLAN...
?!?
DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH
11/9/07

ACROSS
1 Iowa college town
5 Olin or Horne
9 Fragment
14 Long, for short
15 Part of VISTA
16 Chip-making giant
17 Balance or HOOAH!
19 Kennedy's Secretary of the Interior
20 Bridle part
21 Hooray for Jose
22 Lends a hand
24 Pub favorite
25 Persecution delusion
27 The Divine Bernhardt
29 Autograph
30 Final Four org.
34 "__ Blu Dipinto Di Blu (Volare)"
36 Albee play
38 Compulsive hoarder
42 Meara's partner
43 Caverns in the Guadalupes
45 __ Dhabi
46 French cheese
47 Beame and Burrows
49 Critic Roger
53 JFK sight
56 New Deal prog.
57 Comeback
60 Yes to Yves
61 Reno's st.
62 Not illuminated
63 Emulate Cousteau
66 Dried plum
67 Italian wine region
68 __-do-well
69 Nuisances
70 Sagacious
71 Part of WNBA

DOWN
1 Single-celled organisms
2 Philippines city
3 Town near Concord, NH
4 Knight's title
5 Clapton classic
6 Smoldering coals
7 PBS benefactor
8 Sets up
9 2nd-cen. pope
10 Juggled item
11 Schedule info
12 Ancient Briton
13 Building wings
18 Ground squirrels
23 Musical composition
26 Greenish sloths
28 Tarsus
31 Columnist Thomas
32 Simian
33 Gas: pref.
35 Canadian brewery
37 Location of Lake Baikal
38 Dangerous insulation mtl.
39 Bern's river
40 Dernier __ (latest fashion)
41 Workshop item
44 "Agnus __"
48 Noses
50 Els and Kovacs
51 "Speed" star
52 End of 17A, 63A, 10D and 28D
54 __ Park, CO
55 Jazzman Blake
57 Debra Jo of "That '70s Show"
58 Regarding
59 Positive quantity
64 CBS hit
65 Genetic letters

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

A	S	T	A	■	O	U	R	S	■	A	T	I	L	T
L	I	S	T	■	C	R	O	W	■	R	I	S	E	R
A	L	A	R	■	T	I	T	O	■	K	E	A	N	U
S	T	R	A	T	A	■	O	O	P	■	D	A	Y	S
■	■	■	N	E	V	E	R	P	L	A	Y	C	A	T
R	E	D	D	E	E	R	■	■	A	T	E	■	■	■
O	R	E	O	■	■	A	M	I	N	O	■	P	T	A
A	N	D	M	O	U	S	E	G	A	M	E	S	I	F
N	E	E	■	P	R	E	L	L	■	■	S	A	N	A
■	■	■	L	E	G	■	■	O	N	E	S	T	A	R
Y	O	U	A	R	E	A	M	O	U	S	E	■	■	■
E	R	R	S	■	D	D	E	■	T	E	N	N	I	S
R	A	I	S	E	■	A	L	U	M	■	C	O	C	A
B	L	A	I	R	■	M	O	T	E	■	E	N	O	L
A	S	H	E	S	■	S	N	A	G	■	S	E	N	T

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11/8/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're extremely persistent. You often get caught up in the excitement of life because you do love your earthly pleasures. However, your determined approach to things allows you to accomplish much. You love the joy of discovery. You are a seeker. This is why you live on the edge. Expect a delightful, social, fun-loving year ahead!

Birthdate of: Lou Ferrigno, bodybuilder/actor; Mary Travers, singer; Carl Sagan, astronomer/writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today's New Moon is the perfect time to think about how to improve your debt situation. Pay your bills. At least defray some of your debt.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is one of the best days all year to think about how you can improve your partnerships. (For a good relationship, you must be as good for your partner as he or she is for you.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): What can you do to improve your job and how you do your job? Similarly, what can you do to improve your health? These are excellent questions for today.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It's important to keep a balance between how much you work and how much you play. Too much either way is not ideal. (All work and no play only make Jack's widow rich.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Because of the New Moon today, this is the perfect time to think about how you can improve your relationships with family members and where you live.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Are you clear in your communication with others, especially when talking with siblings and relatives? Think about this. Take a moment to listen to your own way of talking.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This could be one of the best days all year for you to take a look at your money scene. What's coming in? What's going out? Don't hide your head in the sand.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Because this is the only New Moon in your sign all year, this is an ideal time to assess the image you project onto others. Take a look in the mirror.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Some quiet time just by yourself today will please you. You have things you need to mull over and think about. Just do it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Talk to friends about your goals and dreams for the future. Their feedback might influence you in a totally new direction. Input from others will be helpful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Are you happy with the general direction your life is headed? This is a good day to think about this. What do you want your life to be like five years from now?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Are you satisfied with your knowledge of the world? Is there something more you want to know or some place you would like to travel?

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu
By Dave Green

			2	7	6			
1	2						9	5
7	8						1	3
			7	1	8			
6	5						8	2
5	3						6	8
			8	9	4			

Difficulty Level ★★★★
11/09

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

5	2	4	3	1	7	8	9	6
8	9	1	4	6	2	3	5	7
7	3	6	8	9	5	1	4	2
9	4	8	6	3	1	7	2	5
1	6	2	5	7	9	4	3	8
3	5	7	2	4	8	9	6	1
2	1	5	9	8	4	6	7	3
6	7	9	1	5	3	2	8	4
4	8	3	7	2	6	5	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

Best-dressed times two

KASHIECA'S LATEST COLLECTION, Best Dressed, was conceptualized by two mavens in the style and entertainment industries—Kris Aquino and Lucy Torres-Gomez.

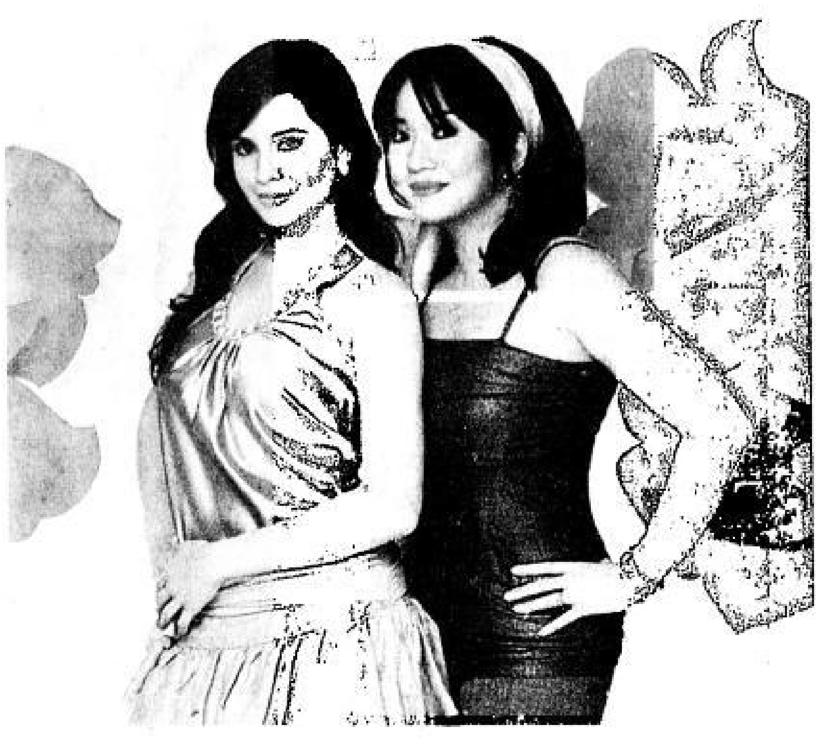
At once casual, feminine, sleek and flirty, Kashieca Best Dressed by Kris and Lucy consists of knit tops in assorted colors for daywear, sleeveless tops with beaded embellishments, ultra-trendy cropped jackets, and dresses for casual luncheons or cocktails.

There are ruffles and puff details, but the look remains clean and sophisticated. The statements printed on the shirts are by Kris, while the trendy silhouettes are by Lucy.

With prices for tops ranging from P599 and dresses starting at P1,200, Kashieca presents versatile pieces that can be worn from day to night.

Best Dressed by Kashieca is available in its branches at Ayala Center Cebu, Alabang Town Center, Glorietta, Gateway Mall, Robinsons Place Manila, Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Plaza, SM Centerpoint, SM City North Edsa, SM Clark Pampanga, SM Mall of Asia, SM San Lazaro, SM Southmall, SM Sta. Rosa, SM The Podium and TriNoma.

LUCY Torres-Gomez in Kashieca black-and-white striped tee, chic black coat and breezy white skirt

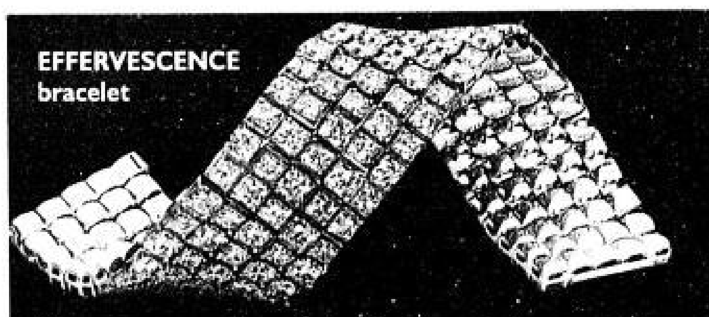


LUCY in silver satin top and ruffled silver skirt; Kris Aquino in charcoal-gray tank and gray pants

Voted best dressed

SHORT gray bubble skirt with sash worn as belt, and white "Voted Best Dressed" graphic tee

Presents perfect: Cut diamonds



EFFERVESCENCE bracelet

HEARTS ON FIRE ARE CUT TO perfection.

"[They] are cut with a very, very special intent," Hearts on Fire Executive vice president for Asia Gilly Strauss explains. "While other diamonds are cut to maximize the weight, Hearts on Fire diamonds are cut to maximize beauty."

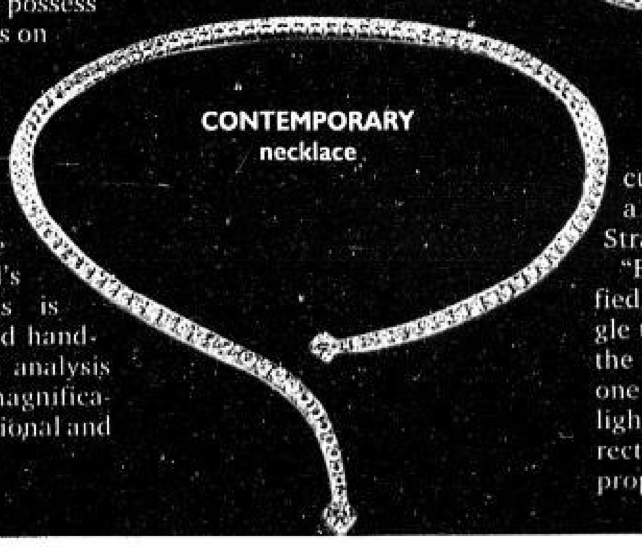
By beauty he means perfection, and by perfection, under diamond standards, it means when a diamond is viewed under a special scope, a perfect ring of eight hearts can be seen from the bottom, and a perfect burst of fire from the top.

"That's where Hearts on Fire got its name from," explains Strauss. "It's a natural phenomenon that occurs when a diamond is cut perfectly; when all the light is doing what it's supposed to be doing."

Only a select group of artisans all over the world can be called masters in the art of diamond-cutting, and less than a few dozen possess the skills to create a Hearts on Fire diamond.

Hearts on Fire combines a tradition born thousands of years ago with today's technology to craft each piece. Each diamond—less than one percent of the world's rough diamond crystals is qualified—undergoes rigid hand-cutting, polishing and an analysis of each facet at 100x magnification, 10 times the international and industry requirements.

THE FRAGRANT pendant, inspired by the floral brooch worn by Karolina Kurkova during the Victoria's Secret lingerie show



CONTEMPORARY necklace

"All our diamonds are human-cut, you can't get the finest from a diamond from a machine." Strauss emphasizes.

"Each diamond wheel is magnified on a screen. You need each angle to be right, every facet must be the exact shape as it's opposite. If one facet is even just a hair off, the light will bounce in the wrong direction. So there must be symmetry, proportion and polish, so the light can pass through perfectly; like a hall of mirrors."

"A Hearts on Fire diamond has all the light coming in, bouncing off perfectly and going back to the top, so as the light hits the right angles, it smashes into a rainbow of colors.

A perfect diamond has all the light going in and all the light coming out in all the colors of the rainbow. That's what a Hearts on Fire is, each and every time."

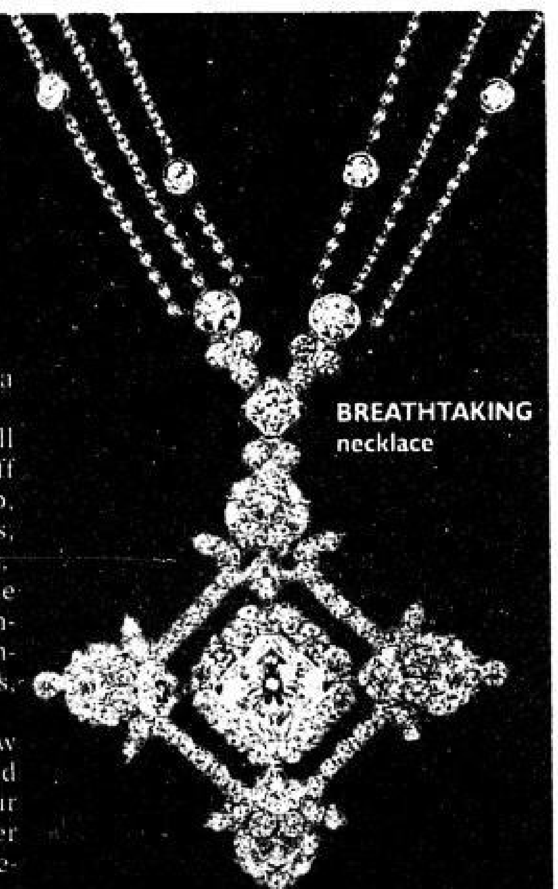
Known to have established a new standard for superlative diamond cutting, these stones take four times longer to cut than any other diamond, sometimes over a day depending on size.

Hearts on Fire's Dream design is the first square-shape diamond crafted with such exceptional craftsman hip it has been awarded two United States patents.

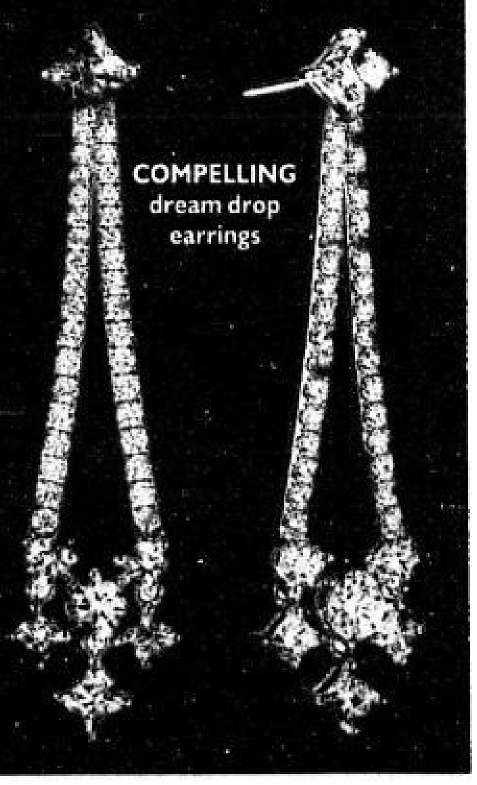
The Boston-based company, formed 11 years ago by a husband-and-wife team, is now a global giant with 750 locations in 34 countries. It has created exclusive designs for the Victoria's Secret 2006 Fantasy Bra collection, most famously the $6.5 million design modeled by Karolina Kurkova.

A famous red-carpet staple, Hearts on Fire has long adorned some of Hollywood's biggest stars, including Sienna Miller, Paula Abdul and Teri Hatcher.

With current locations in Taiwan and Macau, Hearts on Fire plans to expand to Hong Kong, China and Beijing very soon. Its partnership with Vanafi is its first venture in the Philippines.



BREATHTAKING necklace



COMPELLING dream drop earrings

GOINGS ON

WWII exhibit in Tacloban

THE TACLOBAN CITY LEG OF THE PHILIPPINE Veterans Bank's traveling exhibit ends today, Nov. 9. Held at the provincial capitol, the exhibit was held in time for the 63rd anniversary of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Leyte landing, fulfilling his promise to the Filipinos: "I shall return." The PVB's educational exhibit is entitled "The War of Our Fathers." Now on its second year, the PVB traveling exhibit is open to the public free of charge.

CONFERENCE. The Philippine College for the Advancement in Medicine (PCAM) will hold its 6th Annual Conference on The Power of Natural Healing Nov 9-17 at Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan and Nov. 18 at the Ateneo de Davao University Auditorium, Davao City. The conference is being held with the participation of the Department of Health's Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITACH). Speakers will discuss the use of hands to prevent some life-threatening conditions like heart attacks, bleeding, seizures, asthma attacks, anaphylactic shock, choking, hysteria, etc. in two to four minutes (tel. 3815210 or 0917-8333828).

CONFERENCE. Bo Sanchez, founder of Kerygma magazine, the country's leading Catholic inspirational magazine, leads the Kerygma Conference, a gathering of God's faithful from all over the country, to be held at Ultra in Pasig City, Nov. 23-25. Centering on the theme "You Have the Power: Be Nourished. Empowered. Unleashed," Kerygma Conference addresses persons who suffer hunger, weakness, and imprisonment of the spirit even in the midst or perhaps because of the raging technology revolution. Call 7259999 or log on to www.kerygmaconference.com.

WORKSHOPS. Jac Vidgen will conduct workshops on Buteyko's breathing reconditioning for relief for asthma, emphysema, allergies, rhinitis, coughing, sleep and anxiety disorders and other stress-induced diseases and respiratory conditions. The workshops teach both children and adults special breathing exercises, techniques and lifestyle changes. The workshops will be held starting Nov. 10 at PhilDHRRA Partnership Center, Loyola Heights, Quezon City and starting Nov. 13 at In Touch Community Service, Holy Trinity Church complex, Forbes Park, Makati City (0919-6356060 or 8956031, e-mail jacvid@attglobal.net or www.buteykoasia.com).

ROADSHOW. Singapore Tourism Board and The Podium present Uniquely Singapore, Uniquely Podium Roadshow, Nov. 10-11. Shop and dine at The Podium on Nov. 9 and 10, and with every P1,000 purchase receipt entitles shopper to a raffle coupon for a chance to play the Velcro Ball Game.

DOUGLAS James Limpe Candano (third from left), a graduate from McGill University School of Urban Planning, was awarded second prize for his "Dreaming Valhalla" in the Short Story in English Category of the 2007 Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature. Dr. Isagani Cruz, chair of the Board of Judges for the Essay English Category; Carla M. Pacis, chair for the Short Story for Children in English Catergory; Dr. Jose Dalisay, Jr., chair for the Short Story in English Category; and Nemie Bermejo, project manager of the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature.

CONVENTION. The Computer Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers Association of the Philippines (COMDDAP) presents "It's Your Life!" COMDDAP expo, until Nov. 11, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., at Hall 1 of the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia, Pasay City. Call 8297807 for details.

DOG SHOW. The Philippine Canine Club, Inc. (PCCI) will hold its championship dog show, Nov. 10-11 at the Tiendesitas en Frontera Verde at the Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Call PCCI at 7218345.

TREEBARK ART. Loreta Medina, writer and visual artist, is showing 20 paintings and photographs of images she finds on the trunk of trees. Titled "Puno't Dulo: The Secret Life of Trees," the treebark art exhibition is ongoing until Nov. 17 at The Alcove, gallery of the Filipinas Heritage Library on Makati Avenue, near the Ayala Triangle in Makati. Medina, who has exhibited abroad, is showing her work in Metro Manila for the first time.

HOMECOMING. Immaculate Conception Academy Greenhills holds alumni homecoming dubbed "Slice of Life," Nov. 17. Call 8402573 for details. Highlights of the special event includes musical show and raffle promo.

EXPO. "Digital Electronics World 2007," a one-stop shop trade and consumer expo is set on Nov. 9-11 at the World Trade Center. Call 7508588, 8871304, 7508585 and 8871395.

CONGRESS. The Philippine Librarians Association (PLAI) will hold national congress on "Developing Competencies: Challenges and Issues," Nov. 12-14, at the College of St. Benilde, Angelo King International Center, Arellano Avenue, cor Estrada St., Malate, Manila. Call 7356011 loc 6135, 5250926, 5259401 and 7425612.

GIFTS AND HOUSEWARES SALE. Get as much as 50-percent discount on selected items at LRI's pre-Christmas Gifts and Housewares Sale, Nov. 16-26. The LRI Design Plaza is at 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel Air II, Makati City. It is a one-stop lifestyle center for furniture, furnishings, accessories, antiques, art galleries, rarities and more. Eight new stores opened recently at LRI: PNKY (tel. 4030392); Simply Asian (4030177), Komodo Artcrafts (8955470 or 8951772), Jenny Lim Santos' shop (09189792121), Gallery Andrea (4030215), F/128 Art Gallery and Crate.

SEMINARS. CFS Creative Training and Management will hold the following seminars: "Purchasing Management" (Nov. 23, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); "Understanding Performance Management Framework" (Nov. 23, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); "Sales Forecasting & Target Setting" (Nov. 24, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); "Time Management" (Nov. 29, 9 a.m.-12 noon); "Handling Stress & Pressure at Work" (Nov. 29, 1-5 p.m.). Call 8697960, 8232358, 8234825.

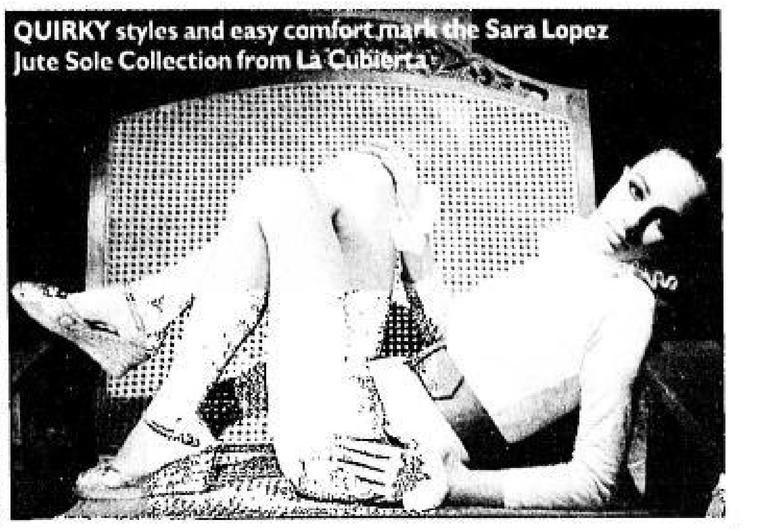
Here comes sunshine

THE RAINY DAYS THAT spell out listless moods leave us no choice but to wear dark, gloomy threads. But now, with the arrival of Spain's most celebrated fashion aesthetic, we're walking on sunshine—despite the downpour.

Yes, the espadrilles are back! And nothing can evoke the scorching vibe of Madrid's fashion scene like the Sara Lopez Jute Sole Collection from La Cubierta.

The collection's wide array of crisp basics, colorful hues and flighty designs inspire nothing but brilliant fashion.

The easy comfort of this traditional rope-soled Spanish footwear can turn even the experience of walking over puddles into whimsical fun. And no, a little drizzle won't ruin your prized Sara Lopez Jute Sole Collection pair since its unique combination of leather, cotton and rubber can withstand many rainy days ahead.



QUIRKY styles and easy comfort mark the Sara Lopez Jute Sole Collection from La Cubierta

TRADITIONAL yet stylish rope-sole Spanish footwear

RTW's comeback kid

From page G1

We noted a few fashion designers—**Lulu Tan Gan, Dennis Lustico, Frederick Peralta** (who was swooning after the show, "Inno's really the king!") and **Jeannie Goulbourn.**

Who's this hyperactive (all right, noisy) lady near us, I asked my seatmate. "She's a socialite-to-be," my seatmate said. Why, what is she now? My seatmate replied, matter-of-fact, "She used to own a brothel."

At Rustan's soon

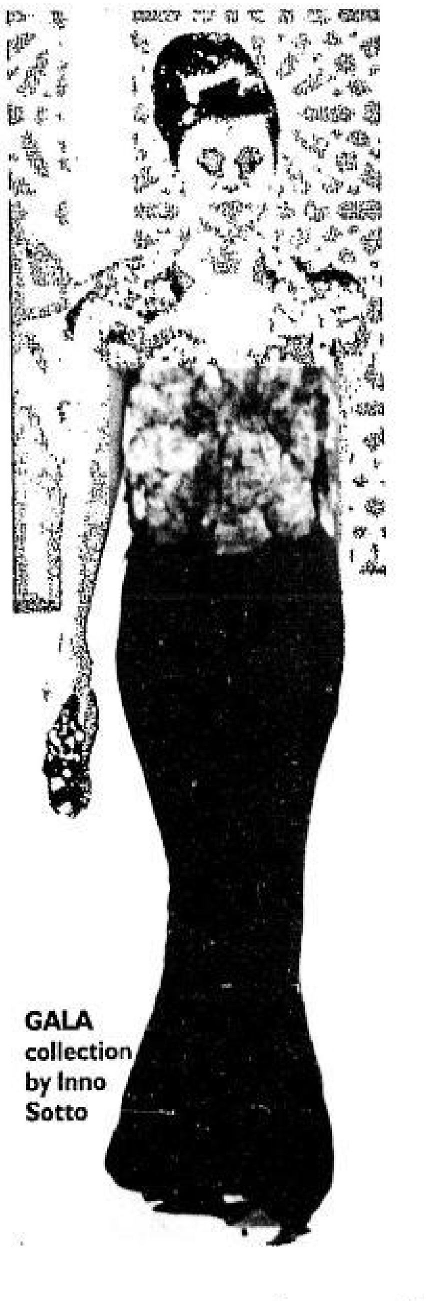
Left in awe by Inno's clothes and Bea's bags, the audience hardly knew that the best was yet to come for Inno. We learned that night that Inno will roll out his private collection in an ample space at Rustan's very soon. To us, that's even the bigger news than his gala collection.

It's rather bold for any Filipino designer to venture now into retail, at Rustan's at that. The low-end and middle market have been captured by the mass-produced goods from China, Thailand and even Indonesia at *tiangge* prices. The high-end market belongs to global luxury brands. So it must have taken some strategic thinking on Inno's part to return to retail, even if it's a niche market.

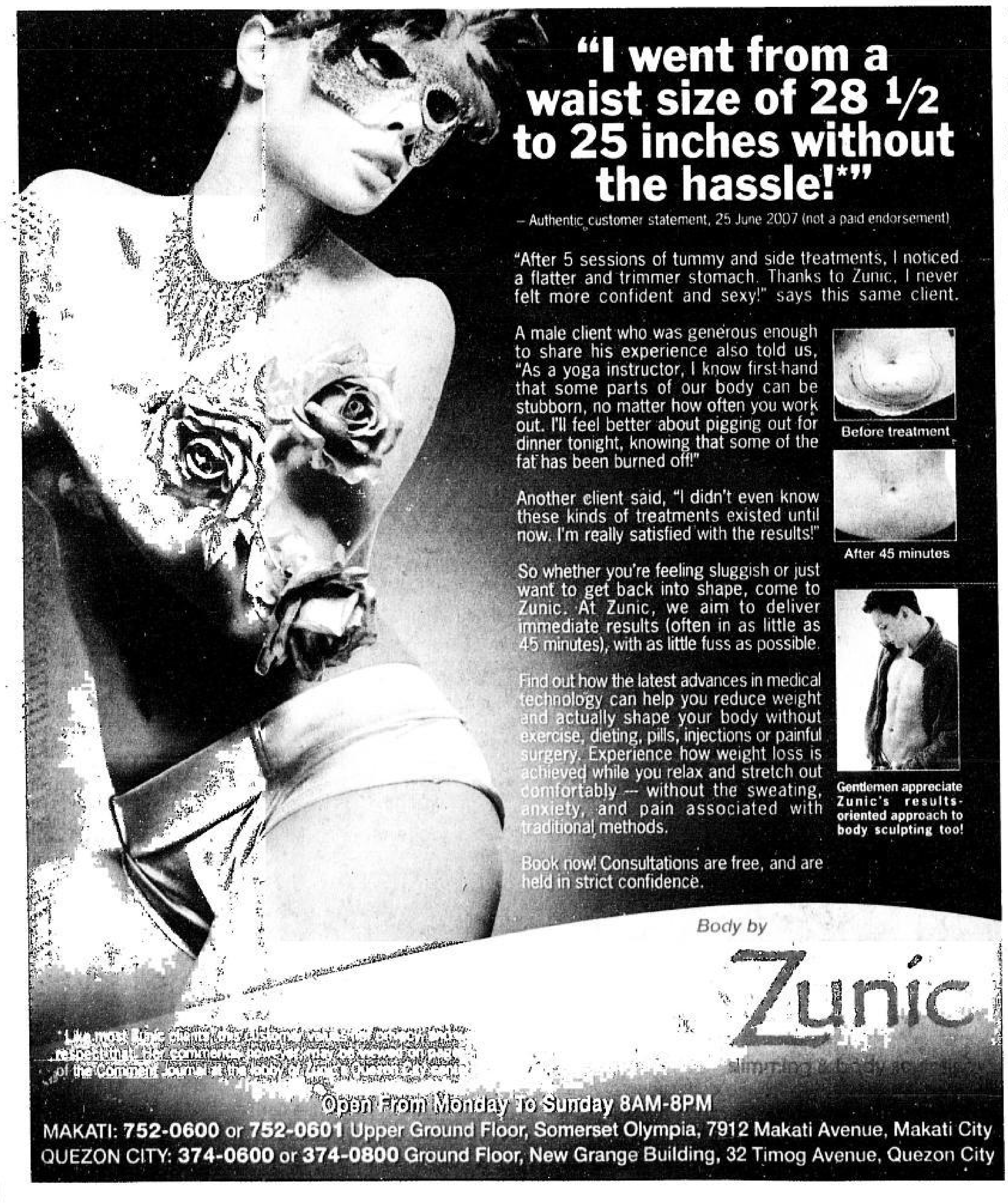
Almost two decades ago, Inno and other designers went into ready-to-wear. It infused life and competition into Philippine fashion design, but sustaining a local designer's line was an uphill climb. It demanded a lot of the designer, especially if he had to deal with the production and logistical concerns himself. And since designers like Inno have a loyal clientele who go to their shops, after a time, maintaining an RTW line got to be unattractive to these designers, if not unrewarding.

Inno, however, is a creator. A few years ago, he created a fragrance line—Isms—which is a good scent, by the way. After that, having other product lines in a quality store like Rustan's was only a question of time. And that time has come.

It should be a critical move—a watershed, no less—in Philippine fashion. Inno's success will pave the way for other designers to take the plunge into fashion and lifestyle retail. For Rustan's, this is upholding the legacy of its matriarch—founder **Glecy Tantoco**, who was into discovering Filipino design talent.



GALA collection by Inno Sotto



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– Authentic customer statement, 25 June 2007 (not a paid endorsement)

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The roles JLo and Marc Anthony play

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES — "We're going to let nature take its course," **Jennifer Lopez** declared about the possibility of having a baby with her husband, singer **Marc Anthony**, during our last interview with her.

Several weeks later, we learned that nature has indeed taken its course. To this day, Jennifer has not officially confirmed her pregnancy. But media stories, backed by photos showing a bump in the singer-actress' tummy, have reported that she and Marc will be blessed with a baby several months from now.

Talk about timing. It is almost hard to believe but all these years, the singer-actress never had a concert tour. Just when she got pregnant, Jennifer embarked on her first show tour ever. Earlier reports about the first stops of Jennifer's concert with Marc made it seem like she hardly moved onstage due to her condition.

When we caught the LA edition of the tour, we were surprised at how lively she was. J Lo was definitely not the hyper "fly girl" (from her "In Living Color" TV back-up dancer days) she might have been onstage, if she was not expecting. But she did not act like a statue either.

THE SUPERSTAR couple of English and Spanish pop shares the stage.

Classic ballad

In the Staples Center show, Marc replaced "You Sang to Me" with Journey's "Faithfully." Explaining that one of the things he loves about the tour is that he can change a part of his repertoire in each stop, Marc dedicated Journey's classic ballad to his wife and then sang it with fervor. These lyrics may explain why Marc chose to croon this song instead: "They said that the road ain't no place to start a family…"

We were prepared to be bored but the superstar couple of pop put on an engaging show. Marc came in first and regaled the full house with his easy grace onstage, singing bouncy, infectious salsa tunes and passionate ballads.

Maiden tour

What charmed us about Jennifer was that she seemed to be genuinely enjoying performing in her maiden concert tour. She giggled and talked about the joy of singing and hearing the crowd's applause. Toward the end of her set, Marc joined his wife for the much-waited duet, "Por Arriesgarnos."

Looking back, Jennifer was probably in her first days or weeks of pregnancy when we interviewed her. Most of the reporters noticed even then how she had that extra glow.

The press con was for the couple's first

THE ROLES/ H3

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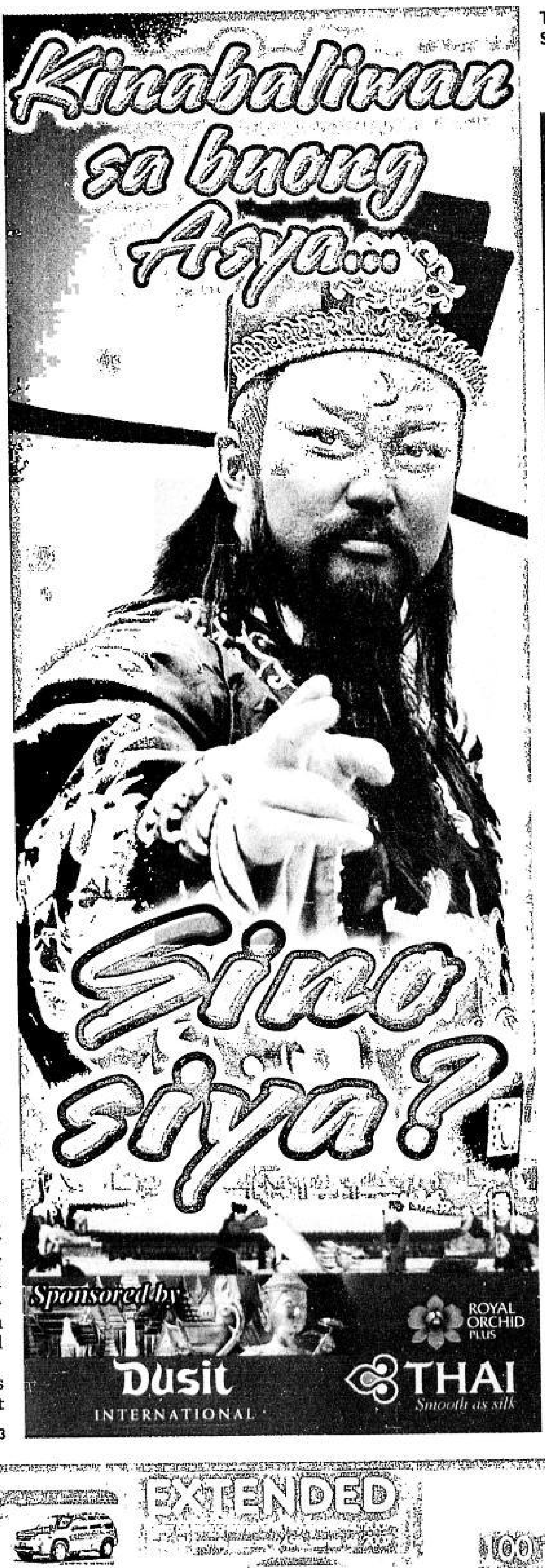
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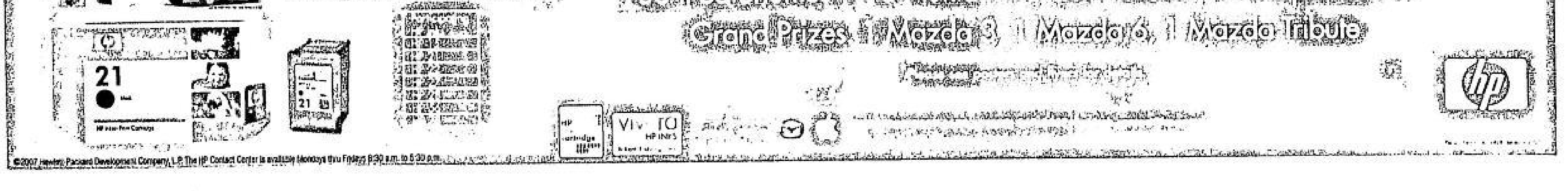
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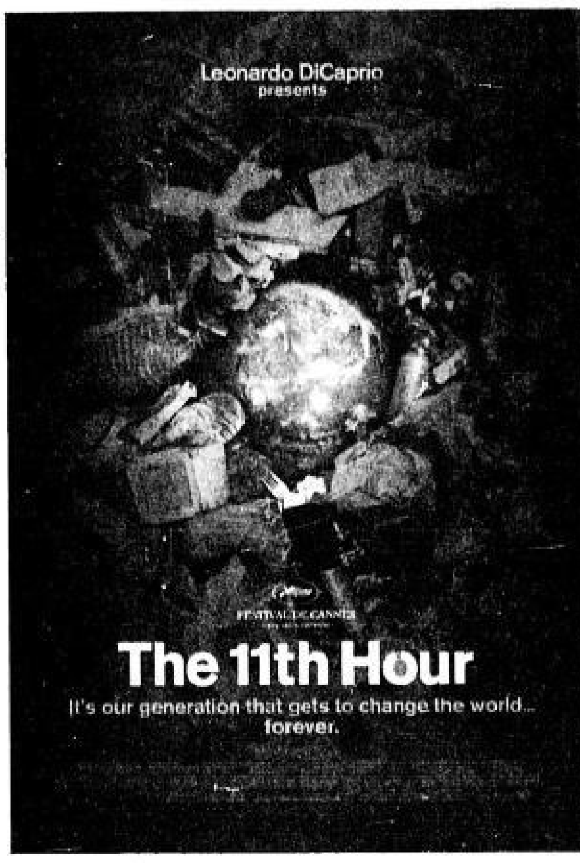
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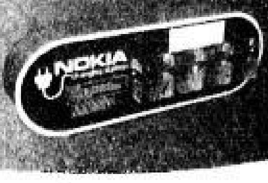

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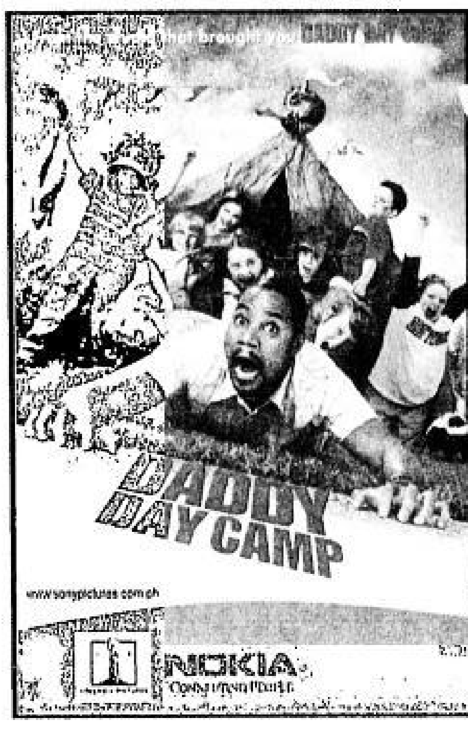

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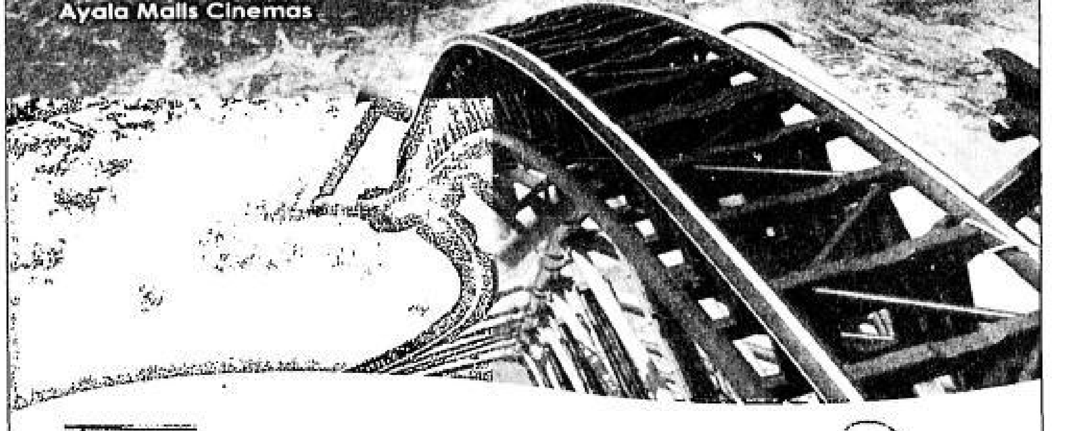

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The roles JLo…

From page H1

film together, "El Cantante," a biopic of Puerto Rican salsa pioneer **Hector Lavoe** (Marc) which follows his tempestuous relationship with his wife, Puchi (Jennifer) and his rise to fame, which was marred by drugs and personal pain.

Marc said of their roles: "Two dysfunctional characters living with this pain and outside influences — that was so different from our reality. I remember turning to Jennifer on the ride home (from filming) one time and I was like, 'God, we're so normal.' That's the impact it had on me. You just feel truly blessed. So we weren't afraid to go to those places and think that we're going to get stuck there."

Kids in her life

Before Jennifer was asked the question in which she gave the let-nature-take-its-course answer, a reporter inquired about the kids in her life.

"I love the children I have in my life," she said. "I obviously have Marc's kids (two with 1993 Miss Universe **Dayanara Torres** and one with New York City police officer **Debbie Rosado**) — my stepchildren — and I have my niece and nephew. It's funny when you start acting like the adult (laughter). It's like, OK, I am now that person. That's weird to me because we were always the kids in the family. You ask, when did you become the adult? But it's very exciting for me. I really enjoy it. I've always been the maternal type. All the people who work for me call me Ma. I take care of everybody, I guess. That's why."

After our separate interview with Marc, we completely understood why Jennifer fell for him. He was funny yet profound, down-to-earth and articulate. Of the tattoo that says "Jennifer" on his right wrist, he quipped, "She branded me after we got married. She wouldn't have it any other way. It's called being married: 'This is what you're going to do. I want to see it every day.'"

Lean frame

He himself poked fun at his notoriously lean frame. "They wanted me to gain 20 pounds for the movie and I couldn't," he said. "My mother has been trying to get me to gain weight for the past 30 years and it just won't happen."

He added, "I have a love-hate relationship with food. We have been arguing for years (laughter). My dad weighs only 97 pounds. He's smaller than me. My sister is 93 pounds. I'm the heaviest one at 115 (laughter). In my world, I'm huge. You have to understand what it is like to be Puerto Rican (and thin) and show up at gatherings — it's just painful. My mother and all my aunts have been trying to feed me since I was born. Everybody vows to fatten me up."

The Spanish and English pop star also made light of being the Menudo member in the background while **Ricky Martin** was at the forefront: "I worked with Menudo when I was 15, 16 years old. Let me tell you something. I wasn't the cute one (laughter). So what I did was behind the scenes. I was the kid that they would put literally at the back of an 18-wheeler and I had like six microphones. People thought they were singing. I was the one singing the background vocals. I was always the utility man. I don't have any issues about that, though."

He revealed that you won't hear his music in the houses they own: "I don't play my own music in the house because I know myself. If I had the opportunity to listen to my earlier works, I'd want to change them. I'd say, 'Oh, if I could change that note…' I'd spend my day just hyper-analyzing my performances. But I do listen to other music, mostly from the

THE ROLES/ H4

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WE OWN THE NIGHT R13 12:50,3:15,5:40, 8:05,10:30	LUST CAUTION R18 12:40,3:50,7:00,10:10	LIONS FOR LAMBS PG13 1:50,4:00,6:10, 8:20,10:30

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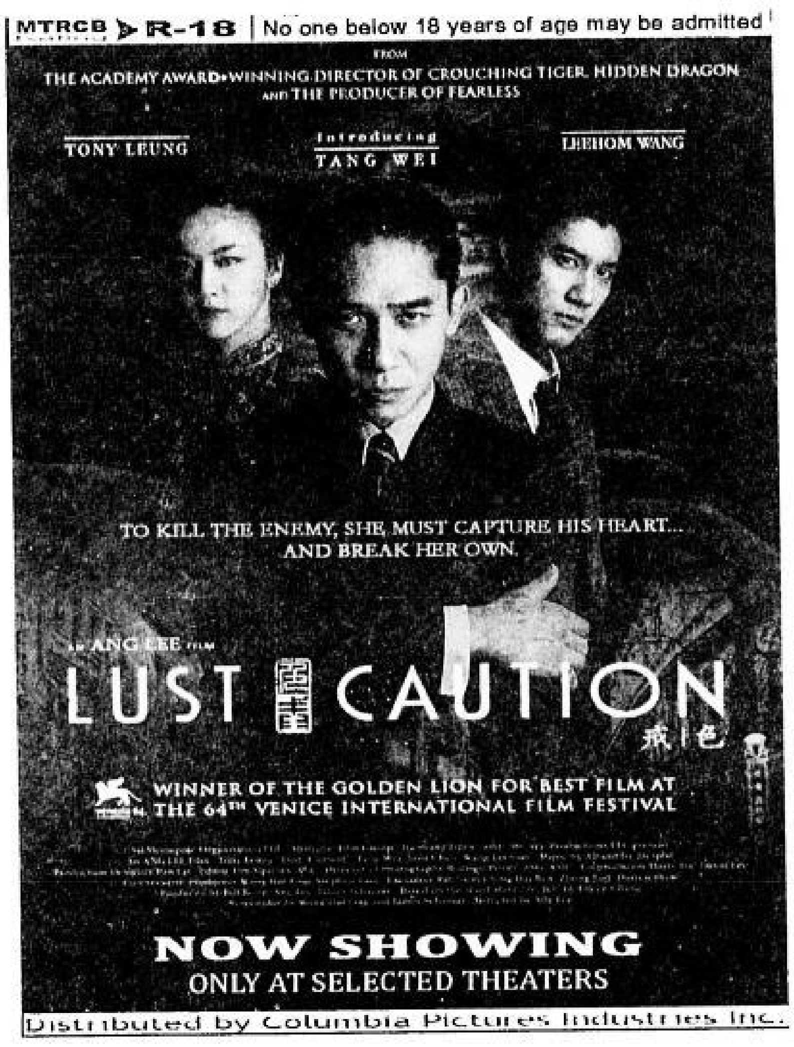

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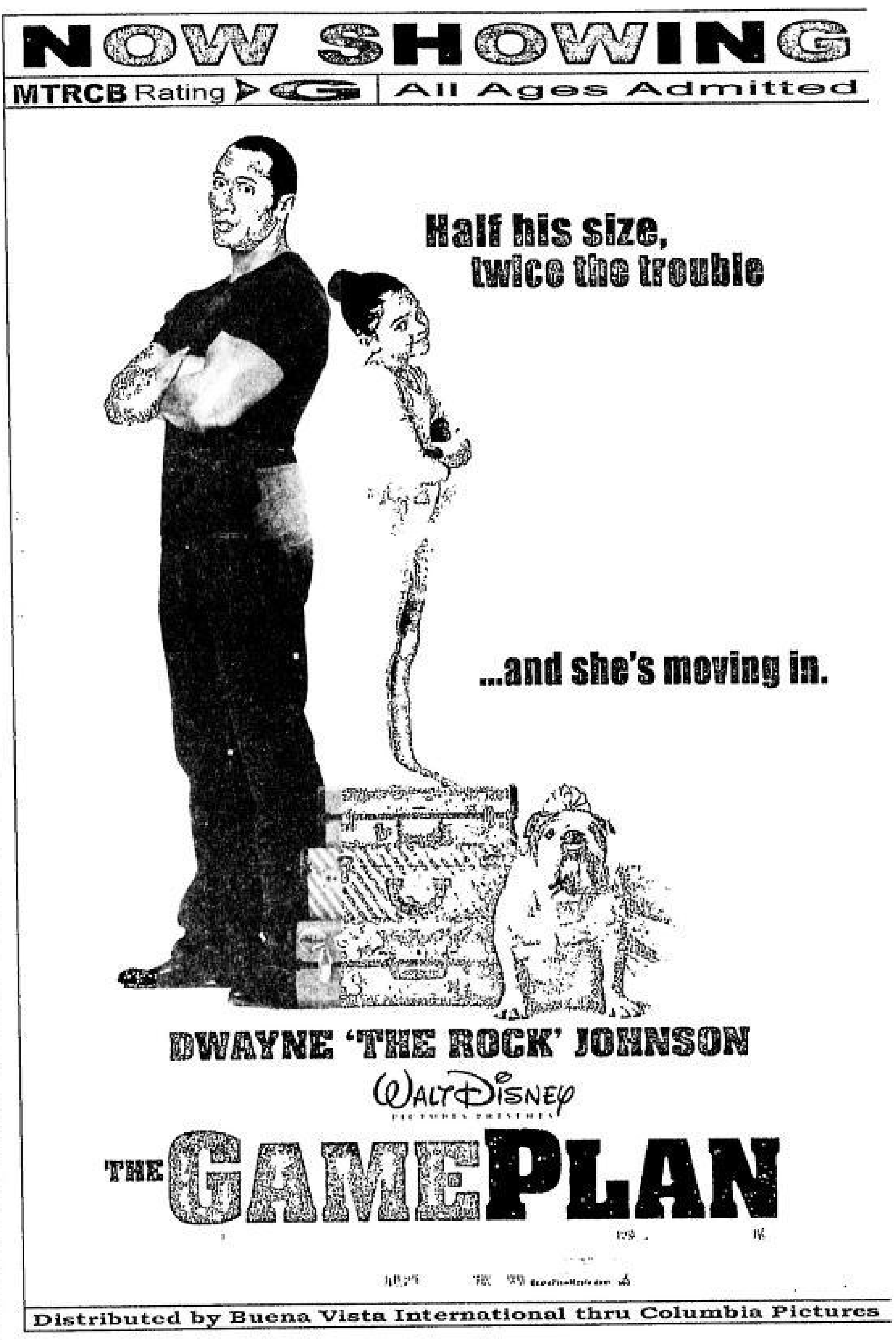

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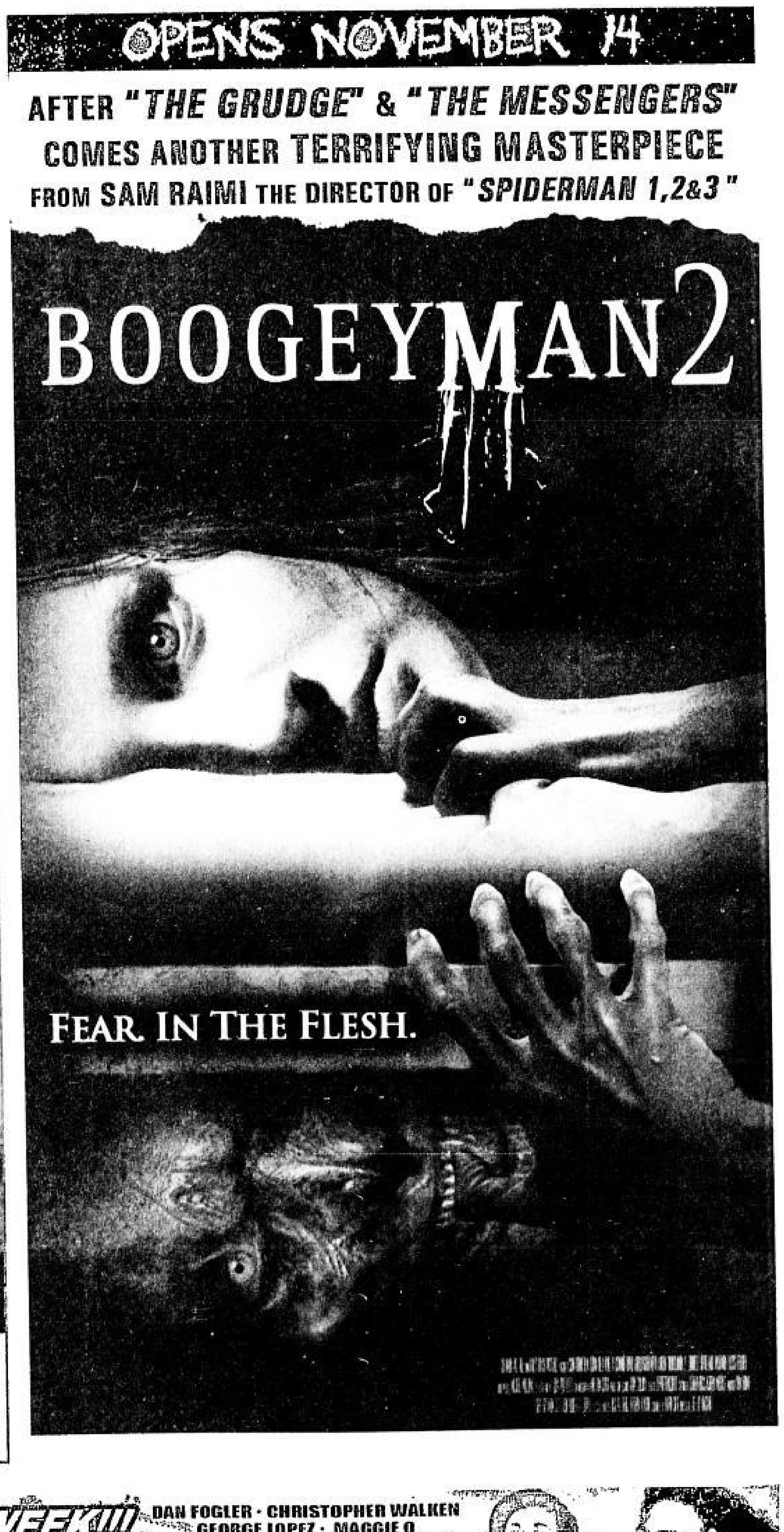

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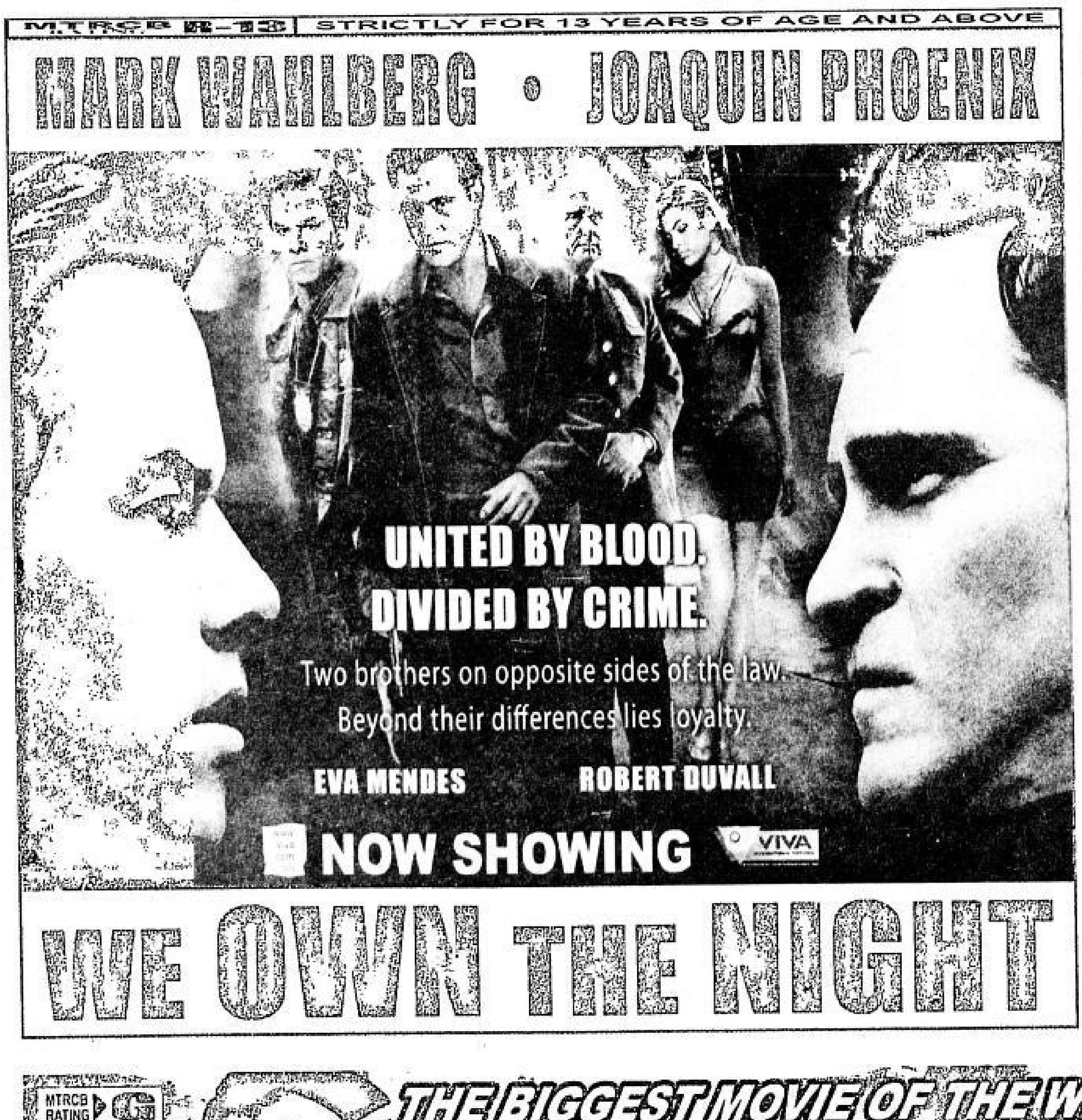

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The roles JLo . . .

From page H3

1940s. I love painting and photography. I'm also a pilot. I have been doing this (music career) for 28 years now. But I have other interests."

Below are he-said, she-said excerpts:

Marc (M): It was very clear that Jennifer was my boss from the second I met her (laughter).

Jennifer (J): He's funny. He's really the boss. Maybe on this movie, technically I was his boss because I was one of the producers. But he still did whatever he wanted. No — he was great.

M: Jennifer is like an enigma. It's something you don't quite understand. I am positive that I could be with Jennifer for the rest of my life and not know her entirely. She fascinates me on so many levels. She grew up in front of the world. But she is just a little girl. She really is and yet she accomplished so much.

J: I guess I am just a little girl. I know people don't see me that way but I guess he gets to see a different side of me (laughing).

M: When you find yourself in a healthy situation and it's fruitful on a daily basis, and you look forward to waking up, that's how she helps me. She's not afraid to be a wife — to be caring, stern and strong. Before I go out on stage in Madison Square Garden, she's like, "You have to fix him up." It's like I'm her son in a way.

J: The best relationship is when you're with somebody who helps you become a better person. Marc and I do that for each other. We can honestly say that since we've been together, we're better people.

M: I have never met Jennifer before and she comes visiting while I'm doing "The Capeman" (**Paul Simon**'s musical in which Marc made his Broadway debut). She took her dad to see me on Broadway. It was Father's Day. She walked through the door. I was positive she could float. She was something like out of this world to me.

She had been following me around for years. I did not know that. She had gone to my shows, my concerts and when I played in clubs, she was always there but I'd never met her. She was a fan. Anyway, I looked at her and I told her, "This is going to sound really weird but you're my wife. You're my wife and you don't even know it." She was like, "This is weird, you freak (laughter). This is a little too intense for me. I just wanted to stop and say hi."

JLO: "I guess I am just a little girl. I know people don't see me that way but I guess he (Marc Anthony) gets to see a different side of me."

MARC Anthony: "Jennifer is like an enigma. She fascinates me on so many levels. She grew up in front of the world. But she is just a little girl."

> The dysfunctional couple they play in their movie is so different from reality

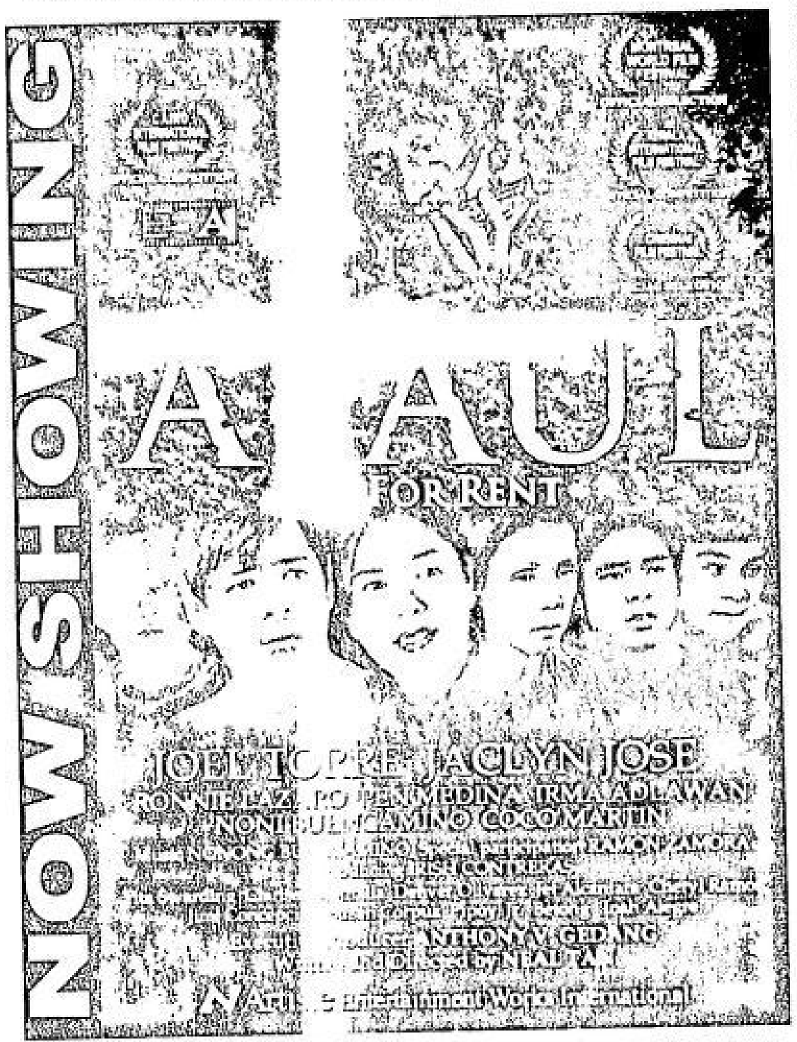
Moment of clarity

But there was just this moment of clarity. It was the clearest thing I've ever known. We became really good friends and worked together early on. I always had so much respect for her. Just true, honest, genuine respect.

J: Basically, he's right. I met him at "The Capeman." I was a fan of his. I took my dad there for Father's Day. They asked me if I wanted to go backstage. We met Marc and immediately, he was talking to me. He said, "You're my wife and you don't even know it" or something like that. I was like, "OK (laughing)." This was like 10, 11 years ago. We became friends from there.

One of the things about us is that he's one of the few people who can really make me laugh. I'm not an easy audience. I like to giggle but to make me really laugh, like belly laugh, is a whole other thing. He is very funny and charming. He was always that friend, even when we weren't together. We found our way back to each other. We both lived kind of crazy lives for a time. We went in very different directions. But eventually, we got together again.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.



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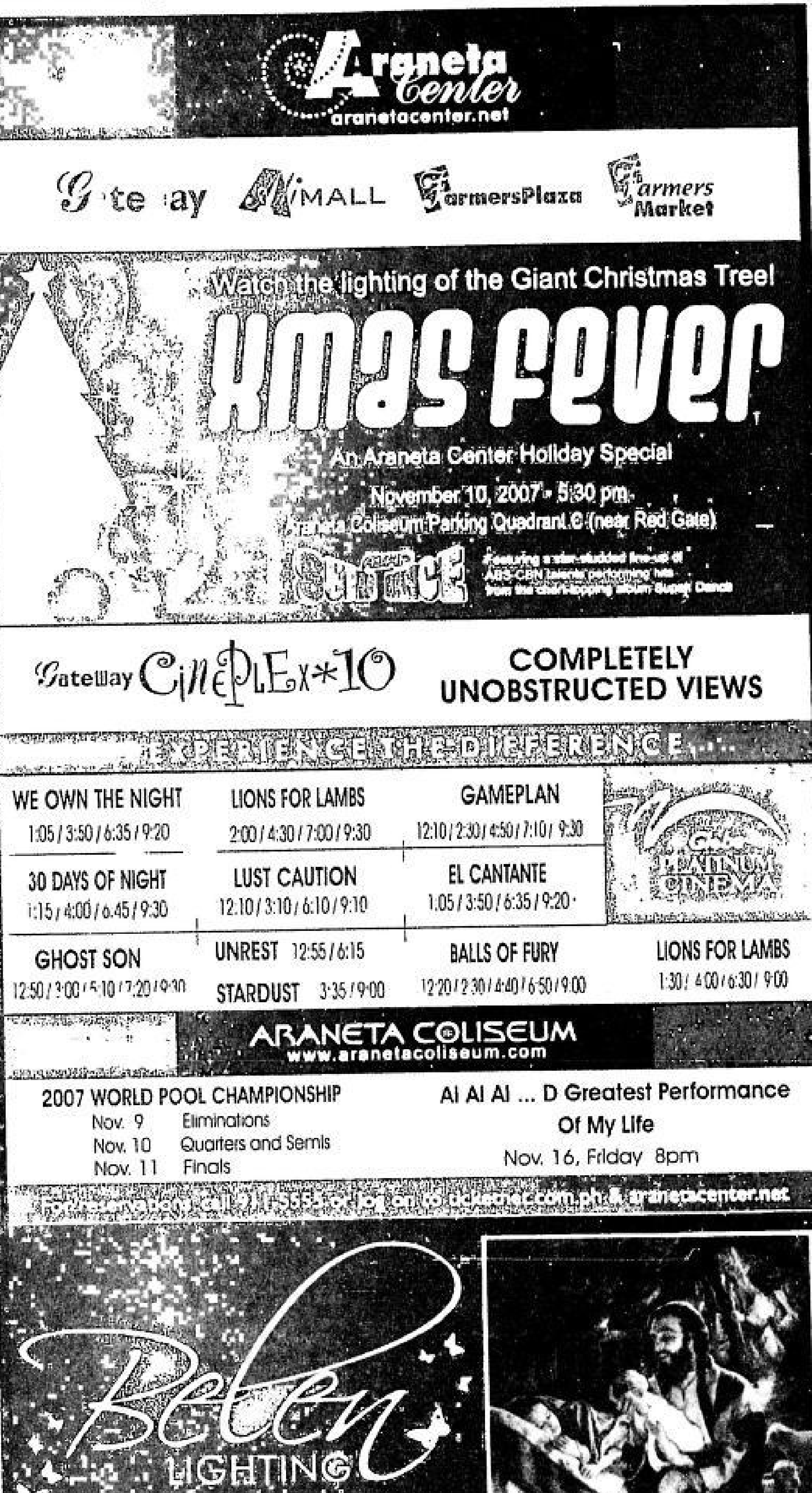

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GHOST SON 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	UNREST 12:55 / 6:15 STARDUST 3:35 / 9:00	BALLS OF FURY 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	LIONS FOR LAMBS 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

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Watch everyday Mon-Fri at 6pm to spot the broken toys that need to be fixed. Contest ends Nov 16
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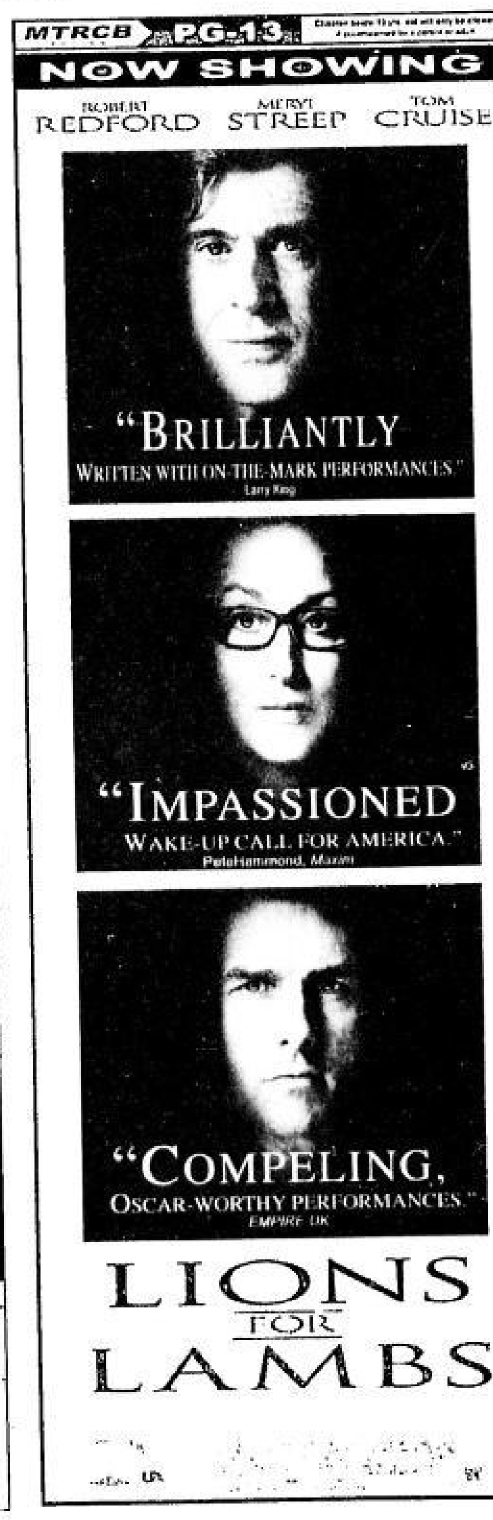

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LIVING Stars

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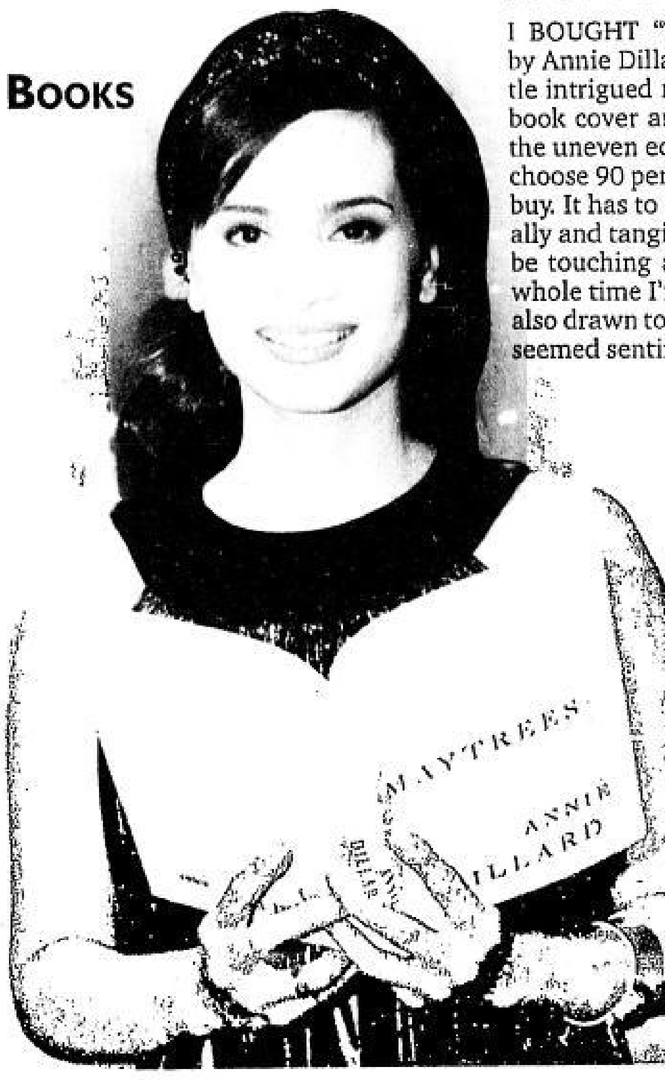
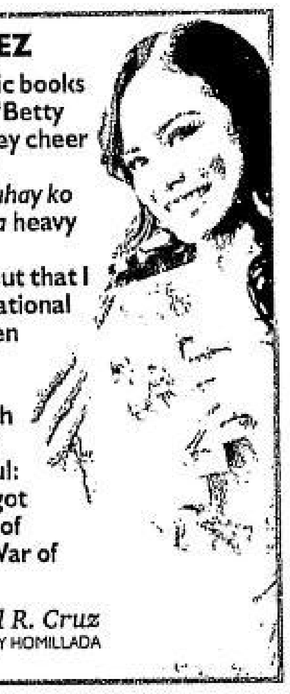


LUCY TORRES-GOMEZ

I BOUGHT "THE MAYTREES" by Annie Dillard because the title intrigued me and I liked the book cover and the pages with the uneven edges. That is how I choose 90 percent of the books I buy. It has to appeal to me visually and tangibly. After all, I will be touching and holding it the whole time I'm reading it. I was also drawn to it because the title seemed sentimental and nostalgic. When I started reading it, though, I honestly thought it was too slow. But the language and imagery were so lovely that I just kept at it. Soon enough, I was totally absorbed in what turned out to be quite a beautiful love story. It makes for a good read. Don't rush through it. It's best enjoyed languidly.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

WENDY VALDEZ

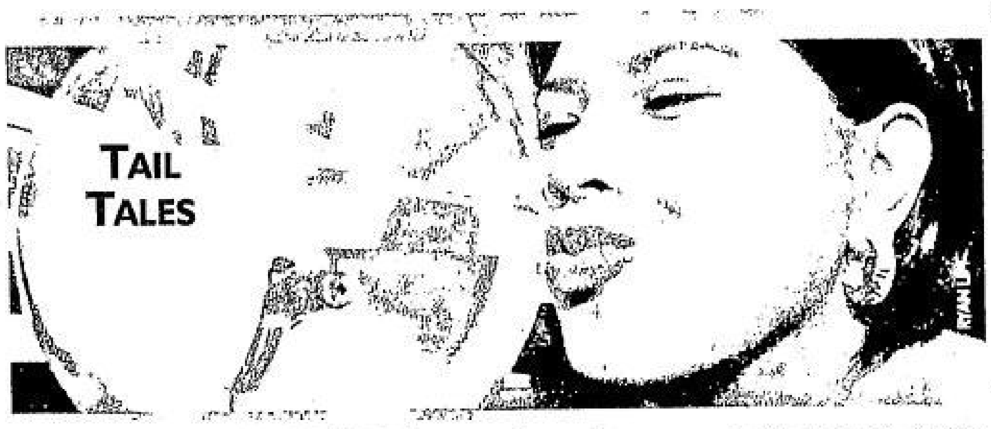


I love reading comic books like "Archie" and "Betty and Veronica." They cheer me up. In real life, dramatic *na ang buhay ko* so *tama na muna sa* heavy stuff.

When fans found out that I like reading inspirational books like "Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul," they gifted me with this—"Chocolate for a Woman's Soul: Volume 2." I also got from them a copy of Paulo Coelho's "War of the Rose."

Marinel R. Cruz
PHOTO BY ROMY HOMILLADA

TAIL TALES



SUZI ENTRATA-ABRERA

MY ELDEST DAUGHTER LEONA brought home the fighting fish a few months back. It was a birthday party giveaway. She named it Feshiers. She's assigned to take care of it and she feeds it three pellets once a day. As of now, we can only take care of a low-maintenance pet like this fish. Lately, however, our youngest Nella seems excited to say "Hi" to the fish every day. I believe she finds it curious because it moves on its own. I bet, she finds it even more intriguing because we don't let her touch it!

Bayani San Diego Jr.

Home to Karen

EXPECTANT mother Karen Davila describes the three-bedroom condo unit she shares with husband DJ Sta. Ana and their five-year-old son David as modern, minimalist, easy on the eyes and looks like a typical New York apartment. She didn't have to hire an interior designer, getting inspiration instead from magazines and consulting suppliers. Story on *Homebody, page 14*.

Ayala Malls
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The Cat in The Hat
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Nikki Gil, Roxanne Barcelo and Karylle as
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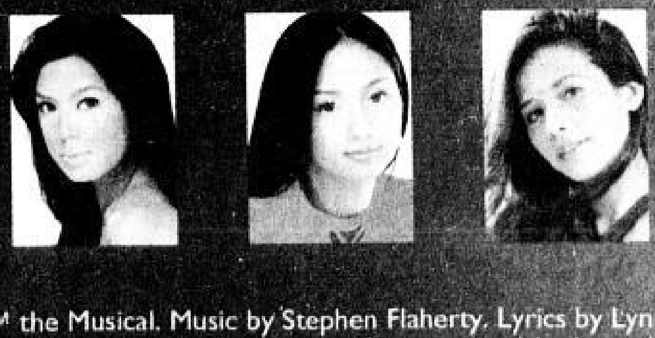

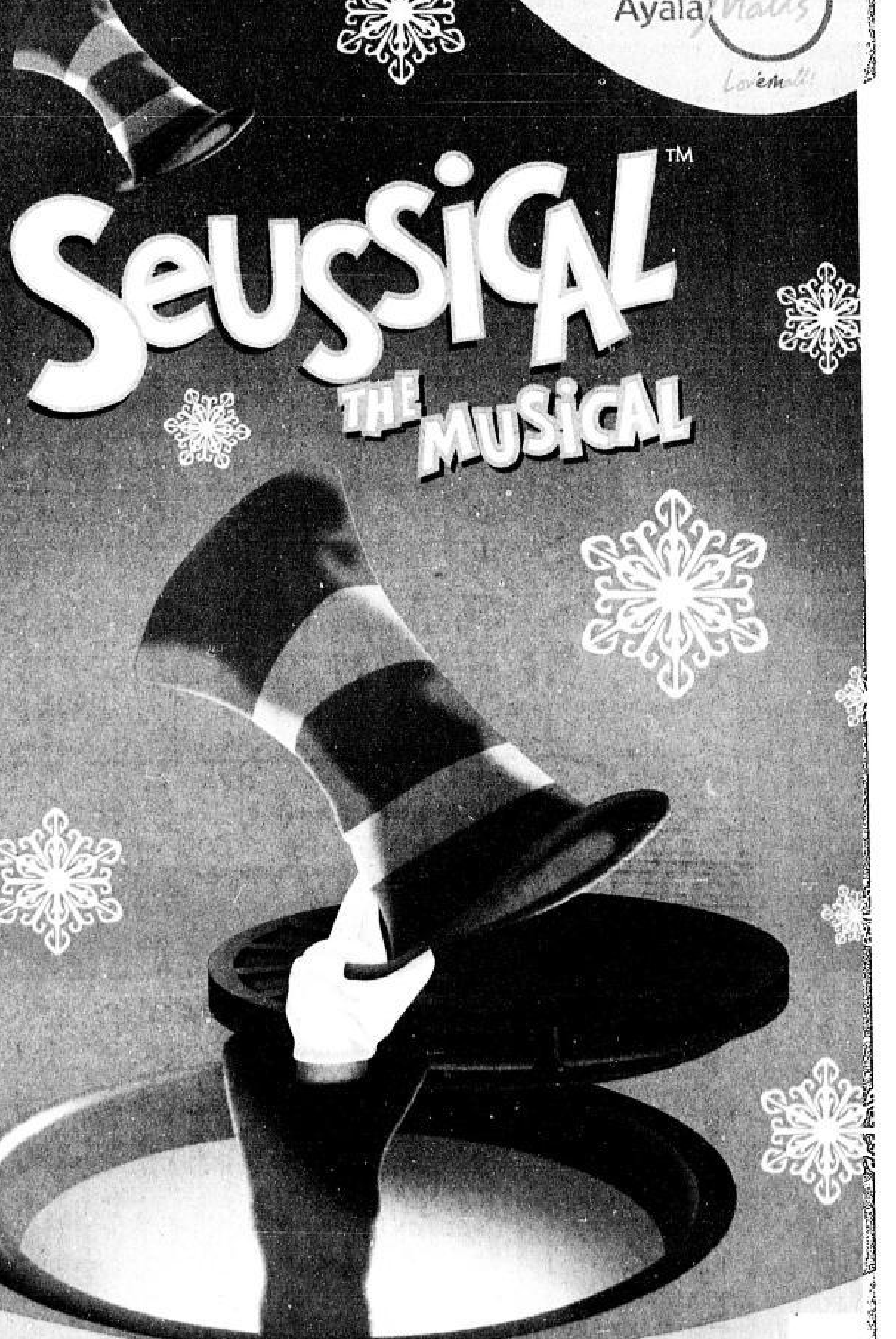

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INSTITUTO Cervantes director Jose Rodriguez, left, is joined by actors Alma Concepcion and Ricky Davao, second and third from left, and Light Rail Transit administrator Melquiades Robles.

Train ride with the poets

CALL IT POETRY IN MOTION. Commuters who take the Light Rail Transit can now have a taste of Chilean writer Pablo Neruda, Filipino author Jose Rizal and Spanish poet Miguel Hernandez.

Instituto Cervantes' promotional reading campaign "Berso sa Metro (Poetry in the Train)" installs posters with famous verses in Spanish by Spanish, Latin American and Filipino poets inside carriages of the Light Rail Transit.

The poets whose masterpieces are part of "Berso" include Spain's Hernandez, Calderon de la Barca, Lope de Vega, Garcia Lorca, Antonio Machado, Luis Cernuda, Luis Rosales and Gil Biedma; the Philippines' Rizal, Jesus Balmori, Claro M. Recto, Jose Palma, Evangelina Guerrero, Pacifico Victoriano and Fernando Maria Guerrero; and Latin America's Neruda and Cesar Vallejo.

The campaign message: "Español, *malapit sa ating kultura*. Just a station away."

Minimalist…

From page J4

automated; they close on their own.

"We use this only for light cooking. Since it's a condo, you have to be careful about the smells. The cooking area inside the room adjacent to this is where we make most of our food."

David's room

"I have yet to prepare a room for the baby. *Wala pa akong ganong drama sa buhay*. But David's room has a sliding partition. (It separates David's bedroom from his study area. Karen meant that the free space could still be transformed into a nursery)"

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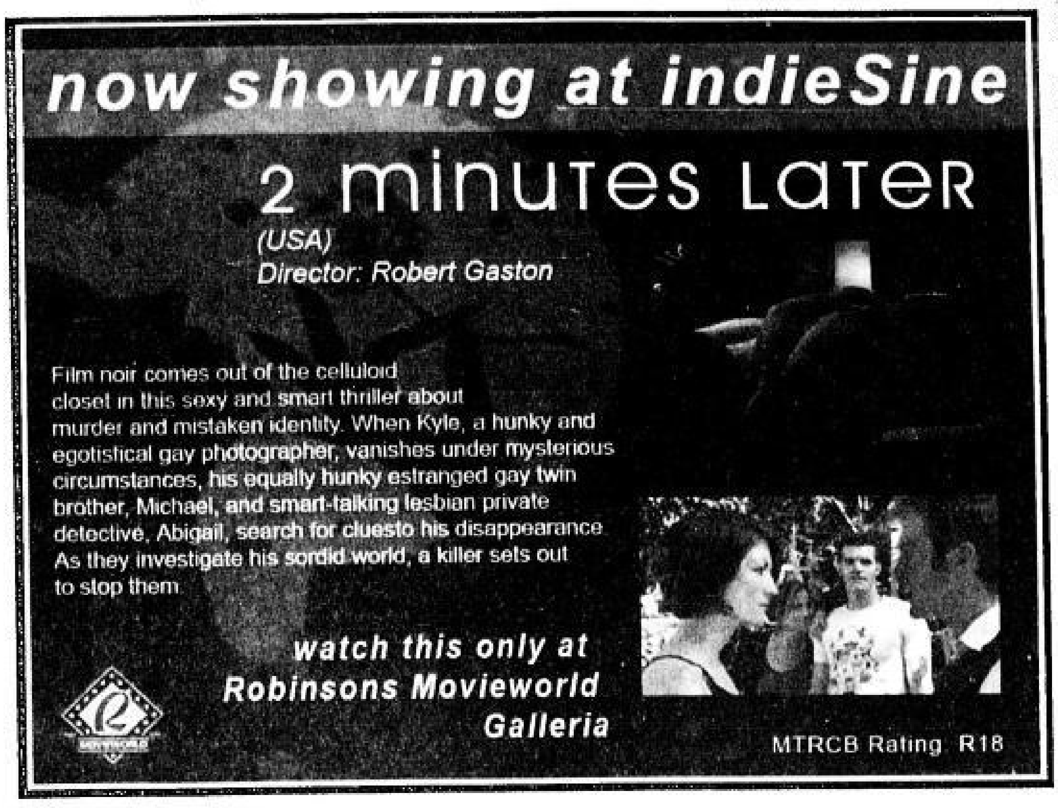
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(USA)
Director: Robert Gaston

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GREENBELT 3	1 THX LIONS FOR LAMBS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE GAME PLAN GUARANTEED SEATS	3 LUST CAUTION GUARANTEED SEATS	4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	5 WE OWN THE NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE GAME PLAN	2 LIONS FOR LAMBS	3 WE OWN THE NIGHT	4 LUST CAUTION	5 EL CANTANTE		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 WE OWN THE NIGHT	2 BALLS OF FURY	3 WEDDING DAZE	4 HALLOWEEN			
MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE GAME PLAN	2 LUST CAUTION	3 EL CANTANTE	4 LIONS FOR LAMBS	5 WE OWN THE NIGHT		
TRINOMA	1 LUST CAUTION	2 EL CANTANTE	3 WE OWN THE NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	4 LIONS FOR LAMBS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 BALLS OF FURY	6 30 DAYS OF NIGHT	7 THX THE GAME PLAN GUARANTEED SEATS

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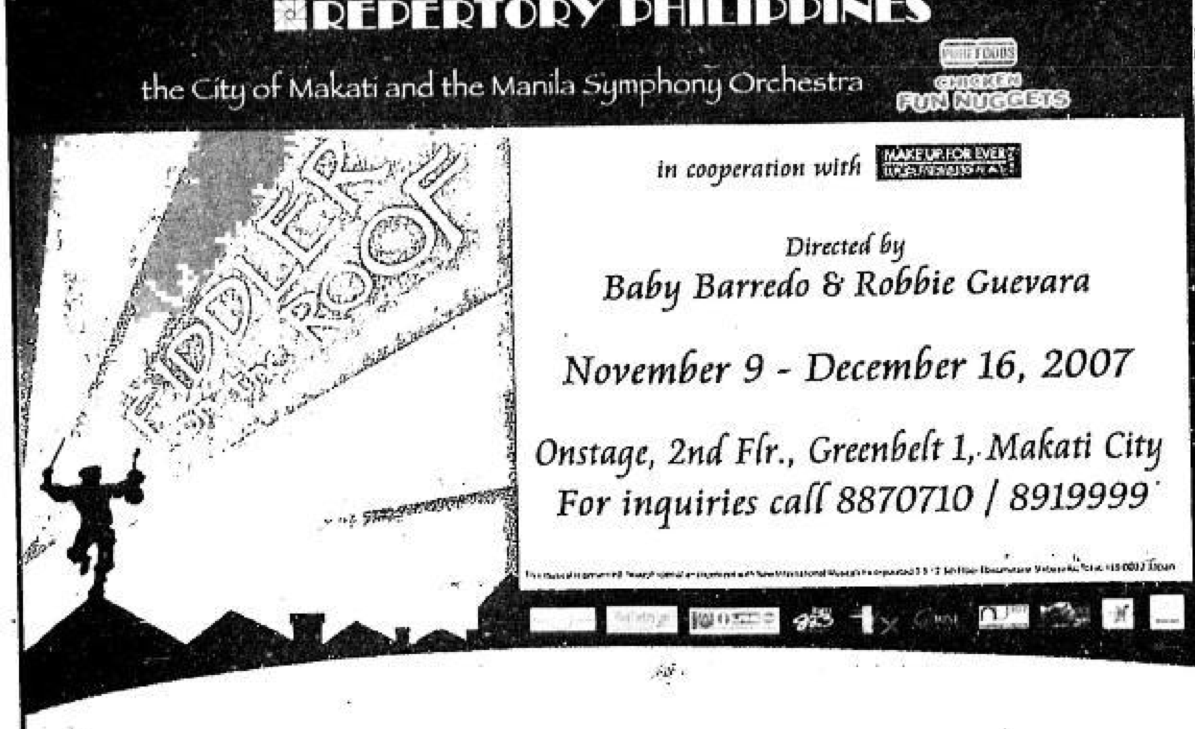
Ayala Malls

glorietta	Seussical The Musical November 7 to 9; 11:30am, 3pm and 6pm; Activity Center
GREENBELT	The Tasting Room October 15 to December 31, 2007
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	TOWN NIGHTS featuring The Bloomfields Live! November 10; 6pm; Town Plaza
AYALA CENTER CEBU	BPI Installment Madness November 6 to 15; Paseos, Intersections and Rotunda Area
MARKET! MARKET!	Home for the Holidays Outlet Sale November 5 to 8; Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	2007 Shell National Students Art Exhibition - 100 Best Entries & Winners November 8 to 18, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Kuh Ledesma with the UP Jazz Ensemble November 4; 6pm; Activity Center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*Promo Period: Aug. 17 – Oct. 19, 2007

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CINEMA 1 LUST CAUTION 10:35 , 1:35 , 4:35 , 7:35 , 10:35 R18

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CINEMA 5 GAMEPLAN 11:00 , 1:20 , 3:40 , 6:00 , 8:20 , 10:35 GP

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MUSIC MUSEUM	November 9&10, 16&17, 23&24	" Into the Woods " musical	8:00 PM
	November 15 , 2007	Retrospect	8:00 PM
	November 20 , 2007	Angelos	8:00 PM
	November 22 , 2007	Body Builders	8:00 PM
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1	WE OWN THE NIGHT	12:55, 3:20, 5:55, 8:35, 11:00	R-13
2	GAMEPLAN	1:15, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:05	G
3	LIONS FOR LAMBS	1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	PG-13
4	LUST, CAUTION	1:35, 4:35, 7:45, 10:55	R-18

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GALLERIA

1 LIONS for LAMBS • THX
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 GAME PLAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 EL CANTANTE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 GHOST SON
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

5 WE OWN THE NIGHT
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 ATAUL for RENT
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

7 30 DAYS of NIGHT 1:00 3:20 5:40
BALLS of FURY 7:55 10:00

8 indieSine: 2 MINUTES LATER
1:10 3:00 4:50 6:40 8:30

9 HIDE and SEEK
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

10 LUST CAUTION
1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

ERMITA

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
12:35 3:00 5:35 8:00 10:00

2 ATAUL for RENT
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

3 30 DAYS of NIGHT
12:35 2:55 5:15 7:35 10:00

4 GHOST SON
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

5 BALLS of FURY
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

6 LUST CAUTION
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

7 HIDE and SEEK
12:35 2:55 5:15 7:35 10:00

Midtown

1 EL CANTANTE
12:35 3:00 5:25 8:00 10:00

2 GAME PLAN
12:35 3:55 5:15 7:35 10:00

3 LIONS for LAMBS
12:45 3:05 5:25 7:45 10:00

LUST CAUTION

Still

SHOWING

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MTRCB Rating: R-18

LUST CAUTION

METRO EAST

1 BALLS of FURY 12:10 2:00
30 DAYS of NIGHT 4:00 6:30 9:00

2 GHOST SON
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

3 GAME PLAN
10:45 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

4 EL CANTANTE
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

5 LUST CAUTION
11:20 2:30 5:40 9:00

6 HIDE and SEEK
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 WE OWN THE NIGHT
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

8 ATAUL for RENT
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES

1 GAME PLAN
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 30 DAYS of NIGHT
4 HIDE and SEEK

PIONEER

1 EL CANTANTE
2 GAME PLAN
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT

STA. ROSA

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1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 HALLOWEEN
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 HIDE and SEEK

LIPA

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1 UNREST
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 MR. WOODCOCK
4 RETRIBUTION

DASMARIÑAS

(046) 416-4332

1 UNREST
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 LUST CAUTION
4 HIDE and SEEK

IMUS

(046) 876-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 HIDE and SEEK
2 BALLS of FURY
3 LUST CAUTION
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT

ANGELES

(045) 892-2348

1 WEDDING DAZE
2 HIGHLANDER
3 HIDE and SEEK
4 MR. WOODCOCK

TARLAC

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 RENDITION

STARMILLS

1 MR. WOODSTOCK
2 HALLOWEEN
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 HIDE and SEEK
5 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
6 HIGHLANDER

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0456

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 HIGHLANDER
3 indieSine: GULONG
4 HIDE and SEEK
5 RETRIBUTION
6 MR. WOODCOCK

ILOILO

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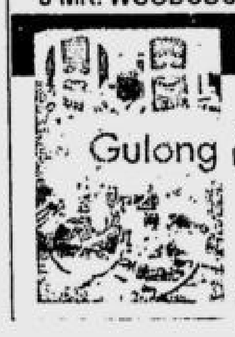
1 HALLOWEEN
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 UNREST
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER
5 STARDUST
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3



A FILM BY SOCKIE FERNANDEZ

GULONG is a moving love story of a couple separated by time, who find themselves together again in the sunset of their lives. It is about friendship, love and life. The story is told from the point of view of Apao, a smart; kindhearted boy whose quest for an old bicycle reveals the stuff he is made of...

watch this only at Robinsons Movieworld BACOLOD

MTRCB Rating: G

November 07 to 13

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

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1 (DOLBY) LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 (DOLBY) THE GAME PLAN
3 (DOLBY) WE OWN THE NIGHT
4 (DOLBY) BALLS OF FURY

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) LUST CAUTION

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati

Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 EL CANTANTE
4 BALLS OF FURY

Starmall EDSA - SHAW

(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 ATAUL FOR RENT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) LUST CAUTION
5

metropolis star cinema

www.cockilbesity.com.ph

(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 8433994

1 ATAUL FOR RENT
2 GHOST SON
3 LUST CAUTION
4 THE GAME PLAN

THEATRES

SM Pacific Mall Cubao, Tel 600-3025

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING
3 HIDE & SEEK

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC

Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 EL CANTANTE
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 LUST CAUTION
4 LIONS FOR LAMBS
5 BALLS OF FURY
6 THE GAME PLAN
7 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
8 GHOST SON
9 ATAUL FOR RENT
10 HIDE & SEEK

Blue Wave MARIKINA

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) LUST CAUTION
2 (DOLBY) 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 (DOLBY) THE GAME PLAN
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 HIDE & SEEK
5 THE GAME PLAN

MARKETPLACE

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1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT
3 RESERVED
4

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 GHOST SON

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 SHOOT EM UP

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 MR. WOODCOCK
4 HIGHLANDER

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 HIDE & SEEK

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

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1 (DOLBY) WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 (DOLBY) THE GAME PLAN
3 (DOLBY) LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 (DOLBY) LUST CAUTION

CINEMA 2000

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 UNREST
3 STURDUST
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 HIDE & SEEK
3 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

Cinema 2000 Metrotown

(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 RENDITION
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 STARDUST
2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 HIDE & SEEK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

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1 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING
2 HIDE & SEEK

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 PLEASE CALL
2

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 GHOST SON
2 BUKAS MY UMAGA
3 MAKAMUNDO
4 ATAUL FOR RENT

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 KALAPATI
3 STURDUST
4 MAKAMUNDO
5 UNREST

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 UNREST
3 RETRIBUTION
4 HIDE & SEEK

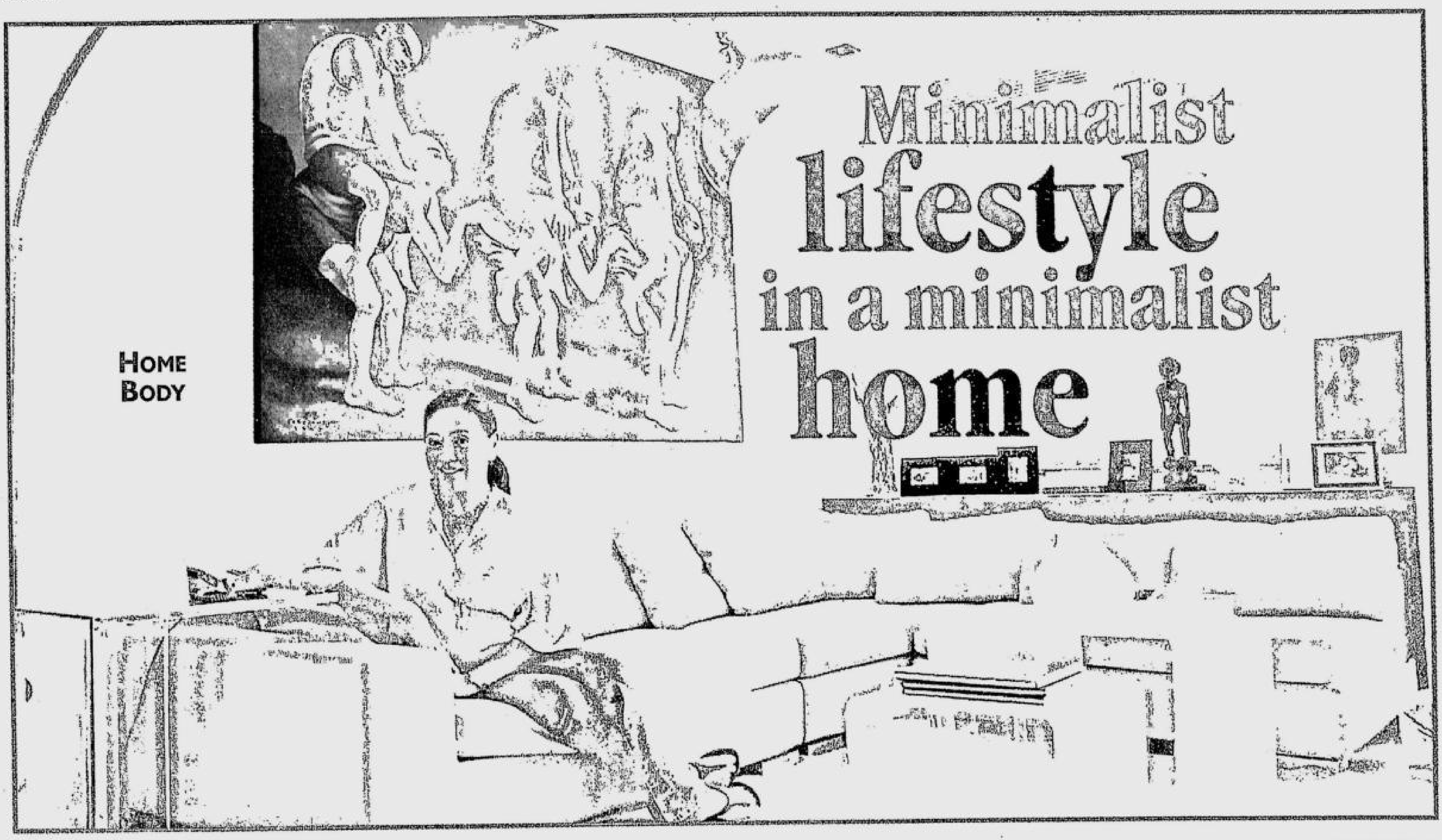
Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 PLEASE CALL
2

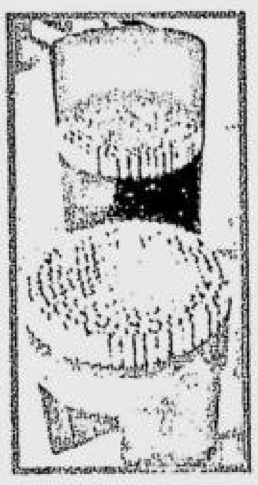
MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Minimalist lifestyle in a minimalist home



HOME BODY

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Romy Homillada



WOODEN stool called Chiquita is a creation of Cebu-based artist Kenneth Cobonpue.

BROADCAST JOURNALIST Karen Davila, who stays in a three-bedroom condo unit in Quezon City, said she dreams of moving into a bigger house someday.

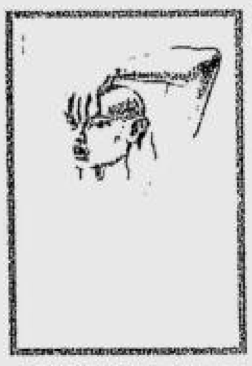
"I think there would come a time when I'd want to have a big garden. I'm not rushing, though. For now, (husband) DJ (Sta. Ana) and I are focused on building a family and stabilizing our careers," Karen told Living Stars in a visit to their 160 sq. m. home.

Karen is one of the three anchors of ABS-CBN's daily evening newscast "TV Patrol." She co-hosts the afternoon radio show "Pasada Sais Trenta" with Vic de Leon Lima. She is also part of current affairs programs "The Correspondents" and "XXX."

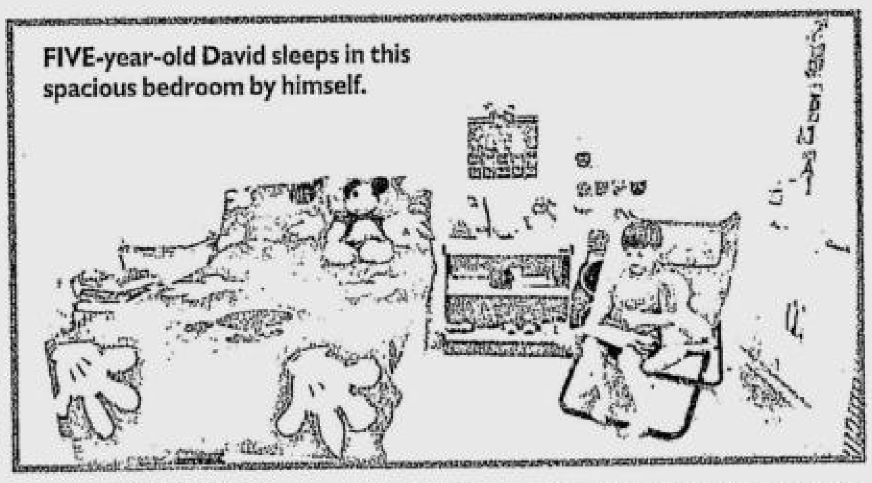
"I'm fine with my apartment," the award-wining broadcaster said. "If ever, I would just add a few shelves for books; nothing drastic."

Karen and DJ, also a veteran in the broadcasting field, lives with their five-year-old son David. Karen, who was six months pregnant during this interview, is expected to give birth to another son at the end of this year.

Karen described their home as "modern, minimalist and easy on the eyes." She added that it is "something that looks like an apartment in New York."



ARTPIECE by Elmer Borlongan



FIVE-year-old David sleeps in this spacious bedroom by himself.

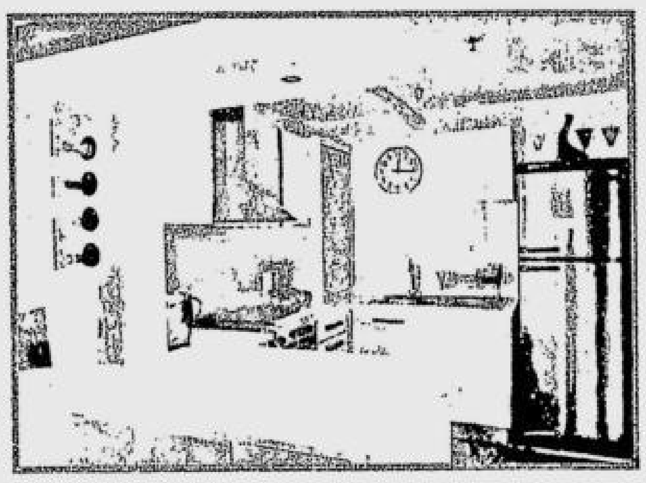
THE PASTIL chair, designed by Finnish interior designer Eero Aarnio, looks like the mint candy Mentos. "It floats on water," she adds.

She proudly pointed out that, while renovating the unit, she did not hire an interior designer and just looked at a lot of magazines and consulted several suppliers. "We really worked on a very good budget to renovate it. We didn't go on the extravagant route at all."

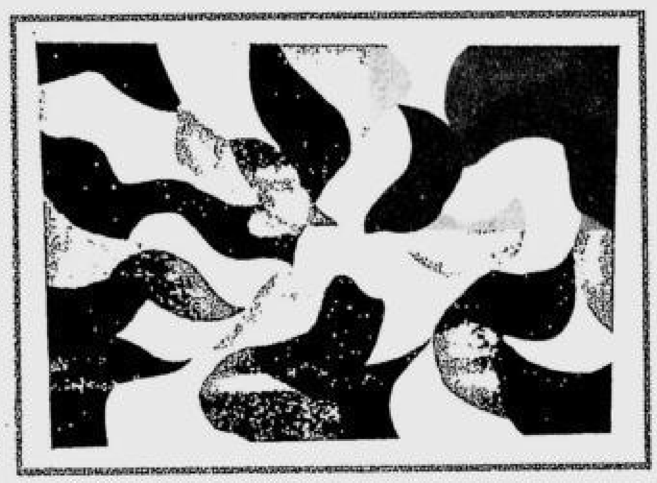
Adorning the Sta. Ana home, however, are pricey art pieces from the likes of National Artists for Painting Malang Santos, Ang Kiukok, Vicente Manansala and HR Ocampo. It also features designer chairs like the Pastil, Verner Panton and the Philippe Starck Louis Ghost chair.

Karen pointed out that the key to living in a minimalist home is having a "minimalist lifestyle."

"My husband and I really don't keep a lot of stuff," she stressed. "Things that you do not need, you either throw away or just keep in another place or storage area. To have them in your home as additional decoration will not help. Your house will only look cluttered."



"FUTURISTIC" kitchen is inspired by a loft in Manhattan.



ABSTRACT painting by National Artist HR Ocampo

FIBERGLASS dining table is from Bo Concept. Floor-to-ceiling mirror gives the illusion of space.

COLLAPSIBLE butterfly chair is made of genuine cow's hide.

The living area

"We wanted furniture that wouldn't gather dust and cause so much clutter. We chose a lot of fiber glass because it's very easy on the eyes.

"What we realized when we were trying to design the apartment is that lighting is important. We hired someone who is an expert on lights to help us highlight the paintings and the sides of the apartment.

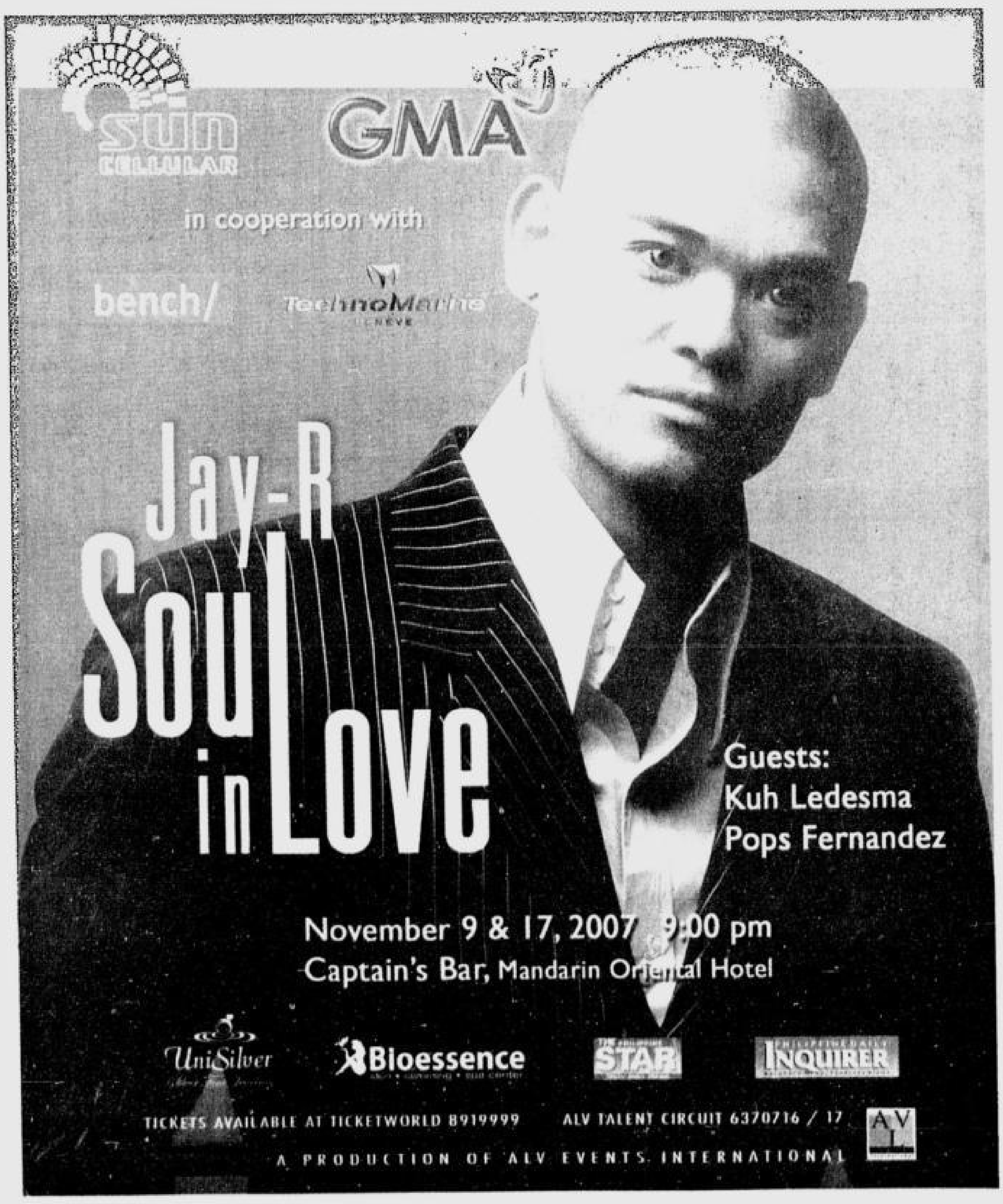
"At the center is the (Achille) Castiglioni floor lamp. It was a popular design in the 1970s and just got back recently for modern times."

The Kitchen

"The inspiration for the kitchen is a loft in Manhattan. It was made by Kusin Art. A lot of Plexiglas was used here to make it look very futuristic. The handles of the drawers are all

MINIMALIST/12

WHAT looks like a wall is actually a bodega where all the junk go.



Jay-R
Soul in Love

Guests:
Kuh Ledesma
Pops Fernandez

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Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental Hotel

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